

DisabilityNOW

£1.60 April 1998

The award
winning
newspaper
for everyone
with an interest
in disability

NEWS FOCUS

Has direct action brought real change? **13**

COACH SURVEY

DN finds Britain's coach firms lacking **16**

PARENT'S VOICE

A father's fight for his son's schooling **19**

ARTS

A "Sick" look at cystic fibrosis **22**

FAVOURITE WALK

The beauties of the New Forest **30**

Chair voucher scheme failing

Poor planning and staff shortages are jeopardising a scheme to give people with disabilities the chance to own the wheelchair of their choice.

Health authorities are reporting a massive underspend on the wheelchair voucher scheme launched in 1996. This lets wheelchair users opt for a voucher equal to the cost of the chair they would have been given under the NHS, and to top it up themselves if necessary. By the end of December health authorities had spent only £225,000 of the £7 million ring-fenced funding available. The scheme has been promised a further £16 million

over the next two years. But health authorities have now been told they can shift the spare money into mainstream wheelchair budgets. Or they can use it for powered indoor/outdoor chairs (EPIOCs) whose budget this year is likely to be fully spent. The campaigning group emPOWER, which includes the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR), has

asked Health Secretary Frank Dobson for a meeting.

Patsy Aldersea, wheelchair services manager at Merton and Sutton Community NHS Trust, and a committee member of emPOWER, said: "We've only just been trying to get the EPIOC scheme up and running here. We could not have coped with introducing two big schemes at the same time."

"Everywhere he people running the service have not got the time and many lack experience. Without better planning, more staff, and a longer run-in time, we will not be giving many vouchers out next year."

Stephen Bradshaw, SIA's director of external affairs, said: "We do not know if this money will be protected if it goes into mainstream wheelchair budgets."

But Neil Betteridge, head of projects and campaigns at RADAR, said a major problem may be that few people can afford to top up the vouchers: "More severely disabled people who could benefit most from the scheme are often unemployed and cannot afford to pay."

A Department of Health spokesperson, said: "If the health service finds that there is an underspend and they have resources which can be released to help elsewhere, it can only be sensible for that to happen."

Freedom at Chelsea

DN, Scope and Action for Blind People are co-sponsoring a unique Freedom Garden at the Chelsea Flower Show, 19-22 May. It will show how, with thought and attention, a garden can be accessible to everyone. More details next month.



MARTIN JENKINSON

Strokes of success: Blind swimmer Dervis Konuralp, 17, from Hackney, on his way to winning nine gold medals in the BT National Junior Swimming Championships at Darlington last month. Konuralp set two world records in the 100 metres freestyle and the 50 metres backstroke. 170 swimmers took part in the event.

Call for cut not in report

A government advisory body has told MPs that its report into Disability Living Allowance has been misinterpreted. The report does not suggest that up to two thirds of people getting the benefit should stop doing so.

The first ever report by the Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board (DLAAB) last month was widely reported as recommending a two-thirds cut in the number of people receiving DLA.

Social security minister Baroness Hollis said the report highlighted "the need to consider these benefits carefully in the context of welfare reform".

But speaking last week to the Commons Social Services Select Committee, DLAAB chair Professor Rodney Grahame insisted that, although the report did say that

of 1,200 cases surveyed, 63 per cent had received the grant "in conflict with the facts", this did not mean that all 63 per cent had been given too high an award. Some of them should have been given more.

Grahame admitted there was a lack of evidence in 66 per cent of cases studied, but he said the board "looked at these cases and assessed them from its experience of disability".

The report does call for mandatory medical assessments for DLA and an end to lifetime awards. It also suggests introducing an "all living test" for the DLA, similar to the "all work test" for incapacity benefit.

But Mike Hurdiss, research and public policy officer at Scope, said such a test "only provides a snapshot of a person's difficulties" and was too absolute.

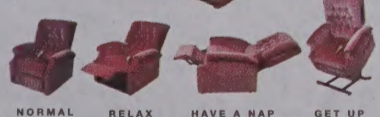
hiatus hernia · arthritis · backpain

Get relief NOW from -

HIGH & LOW BACKPAIN · ARTHRITIS
RHEUMATISM · CIRCULATION PROBLEMS
TIGHT SHOULDERS · HIATUS HERNIA
SWOLLEN LEGS/OEDEMA · RESPIRATION PROBLEMS

improve your
circulation!

NEW



NORMAL RELAX HAVE A NAP GET UP

TAKE AWAY THE STRAIN OF SITTING DOWN
AND STANDING UP WITH A **relaxbetta**
RISER-RECLINER MULTI-PURPOSE PUSH
BUTTON ADJUSTABLE CHAIR*

*OPTIONAL FULL BODY MASSAGE

UPTO
40%
DISCOUNT
FOR THE DISABLED
OR ELDERLY
NOW

AVAIL OF
FREE GIFT
COLOUR TV

For further information call **FREEPHONE NOW!**

0800 614 267

FULLY GUARANTEED
FULL IN-HOUSE SERVICE WARRANTY INCLUDED

relax aching
muscles!

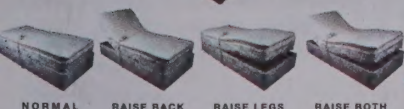
AVAIL OF
FREE GIFT
COLOUR TV

NO
VAT
FOR THE
DISABLED



THE **sleepbetta** BED* HAS PROVEN TO
BE A GREAT RELIEF TO PEOPLE IN PAIN FROM
A VARIETY OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS!

*OPTIONAL FULL BODY MASSAGE



relax 'n' sleepbetta
ALL AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON

INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE

The Toyota Starlet - the little car that's a big performer.

With a new Toyota Starlet, you're sure to take centre stage. It's the little car that's a big curtain raiser.

With power-assisted steering, driver's airbag and side impact beams, you'll rest assured in one of the best seats in the house.

The star of the show is the Sportif which boasts superb fuel economy of up to 55.4 mpg at 56 mph* and all Starlets come with Toyota's show-stopping 3 year/60,000 mile warranty.

And, to cap a fine performance, there are 5 Toyota Starlets available through the Motability Scheme at nil advance payment.

For more information and for your nearest dealer, please complete the coupon or call us free on:

0800 777 555.

Please complete coupon and send to: Toyota (GB) Limited, Information Service, 12 Fenton Way, Basildon SS15 6SL.

Please send information on:

- ☐ Hatchbacks ☐ People carriers
☐ Saloons ☐ 4x4's

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____


Current Car: Make _____

Model _____ Date of Reg _____

TOYOTA
3 FREE
YEAR
WARRANTY

Motability
TM This is a trademark of Motability; registered charity number 299745

*1.3 Sportif Manual mpg (l/100 km): Urban 39.8 (7.1), 56 mph 55.4 (5.1), 75 mph 40.4 (7.0).

THE LITTLE CAR IN FRONT WITH THE BIG IDEAS IS THE  TOYOTA STARLET



Access group suffers

The Access Committee for England (ACE) has had all its core funding for 1998-9 cut in the same week ministers took credit for work it carried out to extend the law covering disabled access in new homes.

ACE, which has had core funding of £170,000 a year, has worked for years to persuade successive governments to improve access to buildings for disabled people. Having made headway on this (see page 5) it heard last month that it would no longer receive core funding.

Chairman Peter Lainson said: "It seems the Government only gives money to the projects they design. This is ironic because we were the driving force behind the extension to the building regulations."

Four members of staff will lose their jobs and the 430 local access groups will lose their central support.

The Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation has also lost a total of £50,000 in project funding.

But the British Council of Disabled People has now been told its money is secure for the next two years.

Budget credits welcomed

A new tax credit for disabled people and wider concessions for carers in the March budget were broadly welcomed by disability charities this month.

The new Disabled Person's Tax Credit (DPTC) comes into force from October 1999, and replaces the Disability Working Allowance (DWA). The new credit will have a higher earnings threshold: single people will get £70 tax-free (currently £57.85 with DWA), and couples £90 (currently £77.15). Earnings above that will only be subject to a 55 per cent benefit loss, not 70 per cent as at present.



Pittkeathley: led long campaign

Chancellor Gordon Brown also announced an extension to the number of carers eligible for Additional Personal Tax

Allowance, which currently stands at £1,830 per year. This will now be available for mothers with disabled husbands, as well as fathers with disabled wives. New payments will be backdated to April 1997.

The Carers National Association said the extension removed one of the last discriminatory tax laws in operation. "The CNA has campaigned for this concession for a long time," said chief executive Jill Pittkeathley. Anyone who thinks they are now eligible can ring the association's helpline on 0345 573369.

From October this year, a new

linking rule will mean people on incapacity benefit who decide to take up work will be able to return to the same level of benefit if they lose the job within 12 months.

Andrew Webster, chief executive of Talent to Work, an organisation which aims to help people recovering from mental illness get back into work, said the new measure was "progress", but added that "to fully recover the recurring nature of debilitating mental illnesses it would have been more appropriate for this measure to be applicable for more than one year".

Parents lobby for needs safeguard

Parents and children with special educational needs (SEN) handed a petition with 400 signatures to the Department for

Education and Employment last month urging the Government to give a legal guarantee that such children

will have their educational needs catered for.

The demonstration follows a report by the Audit

Commission into education services provided by local authorities which highlighted some delays in the time it takes councils to assess children with SEN. The new unitary councils in particular only managed to issue 34 per cent of their SEN statements within 18 weeks.

But the Independent Panel for Special Education Advice is keen to make sure any changes to the education bill do not lead to a reduction in the total number of assessments made. A spokeswoman said: "It is not the system that is not right, it is the way it is operated. The DfEE needs to toughen up on law breaking councils."



CHRIS BAZELEY

DisabilityNOW

Published by Scope

Editor Mary Wilkinson

Assistant Editor

Peter Baber

Reporters Rod Hermeston

Lisa Hitchen

Editorial Assistant/

Secretary Dan Batten

Production Editor

Damien Vessey

Scope, 6 Market Road

London N7 9PW

Editorial: 0171-619 7323

Fax: 0171-619 7331

Minicom: 0171-619 7332

E-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

CIRCULATION

Circulation/Marketing

Manager Karen Bresloff

Marketing Executive

Saira Khan

Circulation Officer Patrick

Durham-Matthews

Tel: 0171-619 7317

ADVERTISING

Richard Gresham, Kingslea

Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices,

Surrey Quays Road, London

SE16 2XU Tel: 0171-252 1362

Fax: 0171-237 8019

E-mail: rgreshamkp@aol.com

TYPESETTING/PRINTING

Voluntary Sector Services,

Centurion Press Ltd,

Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire,

Tel: (01923) 891000

DISTRIBUTION

MMC, Octagon House, White

Hart Meadows, Ripley, Woking,

Surrey GU23 6HR

ISSN 0958-4676

The views expressed in

Disability Now are not

necessarily those of Scope.

Copyright © 1998 Scope



Chairman®

Cars & People-carriers

The first name in truly accessible vehicles

Only from the manufacturer Gowrings Mobility



First for Quality, Choice & Customer Service

No-one will look after you better than we can, with unbeatable prices, 3 year warranty, easy payments and low, low fully comprehensive insurance.

Ring Sue or Jerry NOW on

Freephone 0800 220878

for up to date info on new & secondhand Chairman cars

Gowrings Mobility, 3 Arnhem Road, Newbury,

Berkshire, RG14 5RU. 01635-529500

AMAZING NEW REPORT EXPOSES
HUGE PRICE DIFFERENCES.

ARE YOU ABOUT TO PAY FAR TOO MUCH FOR A MOBILITY PRODUCT ?

"No-one should even consider buying a mobility product until they have read this remarkably revealing report"

You could end up saving hundreds of pounds on Scooters, Powerchairs, Bathlifts, Riser Armchairs, Adjustable Beds, Stairlifts and Wheelchairs with this Brand New Pricewatch PriceGuide.

Incredibly, prices vary substantially depending on where and how you buy and alarmingly, you could end up paying £100's more for

exactly the same product. Don't make the mistake of paying way over the odds unnecessarily. The new Pricewatch PriceGuide from the Mobility Matters Network explains what to look out for and provides you with realistic price ranges so you are less likely to get caught out. It's free and it's invaluable. You'll also receive our popular advisory booklet for scooters and powerchairs which gives you the important questions to ask before committing yourself. Before you choose, read and learn.

Call the 24 hour request line
now on 0990 134130

or write to
Mobility Matters,
Dept DN4/98, Freepost NH0170,
Kettering, NN14 6BR.



Motability can still do better

Motability, the charity which supplies vehicles for disabled people and their families, has been told to try harder to secure more competitive prices.

The long awaited report of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, made available last month, acknowledged that Motability now provides value for money. However, it urges Motability "to intensify their efforts to secure more competitive prices while maintaining the high quality".

The committee found that Motability is now using £26.9m of surplus reserves to cut the cost of individual contract hire agreements entered into after April 1996.

But it disapproved of how those surpluses came about. "We are concerned that the Motability scheme has generated substantial surplus reserves of £61.9m from the charges levied upon users, over and above the reserves of £19.3m deemed necessary by the banks to safeguard the scheme. We note that this meant they had

taken money from one group of disabled people and were using it to subsidise another."

Motability must ensure that future surpluses are distributed as quickly as possible to customers, the report said. "We are surprised at these shortcomings when Motability has been in operation for such a long time."

The committee also wants Motability Finance Ltd (MFL) to review "as quickly as possible" the residual values of three-year-old vehicles to minimise customer charges, and Motability to bring the waiting time for mobility equipment fund grants back to 12 months, extend customer feedback, and widen board membership. Morigue Cornwell, of the Banstead Mobility Centre, said: "Motability has now addressed many of the issues, but inclusion of more users on the board is still outstanding."

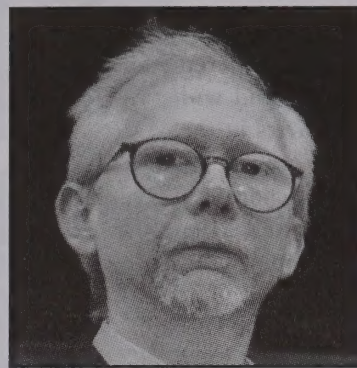
• Motability governors are considering proposals to transfer maintenance and disposal of vehicles from dealers to MFL.

Care report input is weak

Disability groups are angry at not being properly consulted by the Government's Royal Commission on Long-term Care for the Elderly.

The commission started work in January and is due to report by January 1999, but does not include any representatives from disability groups. Instead it includes academics and public figures like Clare Rayner.

A reference group of 60 organisations representing disabled people, carers, and financial bodies has been set up to advise the commission but has met only once and is not being



Betteridge: timescale too short

asked to meet again. Disability groups have now been asked to submit their ideas separately.

Neil Betteridge, head of projects and campaigns at the

Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, said: "We have been told we have to submit our views no later than Easter. We cannot possibly do justice to the issue in that length of time."

"It also seems we are being asked to accept that a public and private mix is the only way of sustaining care provision. A lot of disability groups might want to consider whether national insurance could be extended."

A Commission spokesman said: "If groups need more time, we are happy to talk."

Work adaptations cost under £50

Almost half of the adjustments made by employers to help disabled staff cost less than £50, says a Government report.

The revelation has strengthened calls by disability charities for firms with less than 20 staff to come under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

The 20 employee rule is under review and new proposals are expected soon. But Equal Opportunities Minister Alan Howarth has already told DN

the Government may drop it below 15.

The survey, *Integrating Disabled Employees*, published by the Department for Education and Employment, looked at more than 700 firms, and found that 44 per cent of adjustments cost less than £49. Only five per cent cost more than £5,000.

Mr Howarth said: "The requirement under the DDA to make reasonable adjustments

has clearly not resulted in any undue costs for employers."

A Royal National Institute for the Blind spokesman said: "This provides good evidence that the 20 employee rule should be relaxed. We have always argued that most adjustments employers have to make would be relatively cheap. The biggest barrier that disabled people have in terms of employment is the attitude of employers."

Lift your life.



Sunrise Stairlifts

*For real quality at realistic prices call Europe's No.1 now and ask for your **free** demonstration video, stairlift catalogue and price guide.*



0800 16 33 65



SUNRISE

Improving people's lives



Please send me my **FREE** Sunrise Stairlift colour brochure plus video.

DDN803

Mr/Mrs/Ms. (Inc. initials)

Telephone

Address

Postcode

Send to: Sunrise Medical Ltd, **FREEPOST** DD348, High St, Wollaston, DY8 4BR.



Council mounts new pass check

A London council is calling in 2,400 disabled people in a bid to crack down on free travel card "cheats".

Kensington and Chelsea is carrying out the assessments, despite nearby Lambeth's decision to abandon plans to take some passes away.

Of 700 people assessed in the borough, around 80 have lost their permits since the assessments began.

A council spokeswoman said: "There have been abuses. For those who are genuinely in need there is no problem. Our

assessor is a qualified occupational therapist. Information from doctors is valuable but decisions about eligibility rest entirely with the council and are based on walking ability, not simply medical diagnosis."

But Karen Edmunds, director of the Greater London Association of Disabled People, said she was appalled, as people had already passed one test. "Presumably the council is just picking people off individually on the basis that they will not feel confident enough to stand up for themselves," she said.

Rule needs extension

Outline plans to make all new homes accessible to disabled people are welcome but do not go far enough, disability groups said this month.

Construction minister Nick Raynsford said the plans to extend Part M of the housing regulations to new houses later this year would "allow people to invite disabled people to visit their homes", and would mean home owners could "remain in their own homes as they become less mobile."

The new rules mean one doorway of new homes must have a level threshold instead of the traditional doorstep. Entrance doors must be wide

enough for wheelchairs and the space between parking space and house should be level.

But provision for a lift and extra space either side of doorways will be left out. And disability organisations have expressed disappointment that the Government has not implemented all 16 design standards of "lifetime homes", an accessible housing design developed by housing group the Joseph Rowntree Trust.

Mike Donnelly, chief executive of the Habinteg Housing Association which already builds Lifetime homes told DN: "The provision for an extra 300mm at the side of doors

would have provided a little bit of extra space to allow wheelchair users to approach doors and open them more easily. That will cost quite a bit to bring in later on."

Alun Francis, development officer for the Access Committee for England added: "The formal regulations are not out yet so we don't know what will be included."

But Bert Massie, chief executive of the Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation, was positive. "This announcement does not only benefit disabled people" he said, "but all those who are not yet disabled but will be one day."

Hospitals to improve again

Hospitals could soon be reassessing the way they handle people with disabilities following the publication of a new charter from the Royal College of Physicians this month.

The charter, *Disabled People Using Hospitals*, is voluntary and does not apply to GP's surgeries. But project co-ordinator John Harrison, a retired consultant physician, said he hoped a charter due from the NHS executive later this year would have similar standards. "The documents should reinforce each other," he said.

The document is an update of one produced in 1990, and takes in the relevant sections of the Disability Discrimination Act. It says all people with disabilities have the right to be treated in the same way as others and to use services and facilities without hindrance.

It adds that all disabled patients or visitors should expect staff to recognise and respond to their needs. But there is some way to go on this

issue: a survey carried out in Lincolnshire while the charter was being made showed many doctors had a dread of becoming

disabled and so did not understand disabled people's needs. Patients, too, feared revealing any disability.



Let's talk: Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, now has a disability awareness training scheme for its staff. Details, tel: 0181-869 2703

Appeal sees test case overturned

A Scottish police officer who convinced judges that his multiple sclerosis (ms) had been caused by an accident at work has had his damages removed after the case was overturned.

Nicholas Dingley, 42, was awarded £500,000 after the Court of Session, ruled that a whiplash injury had caused the condition to develop.

But last month the award was reduced to only £1,500 on appeal after Lord Roger, Lord President of the Court of Session said he was "not satis-

fied that whiplash can cause the onset of symptomatic ms".

During the hearing Professor Alastair Compston from Cambridge University had claimed it was impossible in individual cases to tell if the onset of symptoms was due to trauma or was just coincidence.

But an MS Society spokesman said there was a distinction between triggering and causing. "No one would argue that a shock can trigger a relapse," he said, "but the initial onset can have many causes."

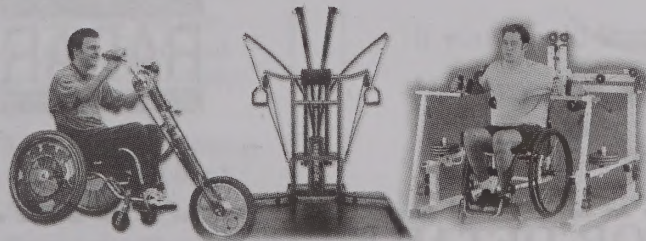
Want to Get Fit??

CYCLONE MOBILITY & FITNESS

FOR ALL YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH AND FITNESS NEEDS

We supply custom-built wheelchairs and the finest selection of disabled fitness equipment available in the UK. Our equipment is used regularly for personal rehabilitation and exercise programmes and in therapy clinics, fitness centres, spinal units and hospitals. Our expert staff, fully qualified in the fields of physiology and biomechanics, are available to advise on the most effective solution to your needs. Please phone our hotline and ask to speak to one of our fitness advisors. Alternatively, fill out the coupon and send it to our freepost address.

FREEPHONE 0500 434 493



Please send me details on
 Name Address

 Postcode Telephone number
 Cyclone Wheelchairs, FREEPOST NWW3068, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral, L66 1BR. DN4/98

"Find out why Stannah is the world's most chosen stairlift."

RAYMOND BAXTER



Stannah has built world-class stairlifts for over a quarter of a century. More people choose a Stannah Stairlift than any other. Why settle for anything less?

- Free stair survey
- Fast, mess-free installation
- Built for your stairs - straight or curved
- New smoother, quieter ride
- Full guarantee
- 24-hour call out, 365 days a year

NEW MODELS AVAILABLE
FREEPHONE 0800 715 124
 Ext 3233

Please send me details. For my household ☐
 For a relative ☐

Name
 Address

Postcode Tel. No.

Stannah Stairlifts, Dept 3233, FREEPOST SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR.

Stannah
 Stairlifts
 The world's most chosen stairlift

BBC stands firm on gameshow format

The BBC is refusing to back down after it was condemned for barring disabled people from a lottery gameshow.

Lottery organiser Camelot has also come in for criticism over the show *The National Lottery Big Ticket*, which started last month on BBC 1.

The show lets "champions" from groups which have received money through one of the Lottery's good causes compete in physical games.

Volunteers from Arthritis Care have withdrawn from the programme in protest because the games, which include human pinball, exclude disabled people. Chief executive Richard Gutch said organisers had missed an opportunity.

"They could have come up with something original which could have involved having disabled people and non-disabled people competing together," he said. "We hope they will even-



Gutch: urged rethink on show

tually come up with a rather different approach."

A BBC spokesperson said: "It is not possible at this stage to change the format, but that is not to say we will not ever include disabled people.

A Camelot spokesperson said: "The subject of using disabled champions was discussed at length, but it was decided that it would not be possible."

In-Sensed by jab study

A study claiming a link between inflammatory bowel disease, autism and the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine has been over-hyped, claims the deaf-blind charity Sense.

The study, published in February's *Lancet*, claimed to have found a new bowel disease. A research team led by Dr Andrew Wakefield of the Royal Free Hospital in London had examined 12 children with stomach disorders who showed signs of autism. Researchers found that "in most cases, onset of the symptoms was after immunisation".

Sense chief executive Rodney Clarke told DN: "This study is far too small to draw any conclusions from it and, despite all the current furore, we must continue to support the Government's programme with the vaccine."

Statistics show there were 360 children born with congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) in the 1970s. After the introduction of

the vaccine in the 1990s, there were only 25 born with CRS.

Pat Tookay, coordinator of the national congenital rubella surveillance programme at the Institute of Child Health, said: "Children are being referred to these researchers because they have a special interest," she said. "This is not objective."

She said since the study was covered in the media many par-

ents now demanded single dose vaccines. This had led to a shortage of supplies in some areas, she claimed.

Julie Baugh, whose two sons were examined as part of Dr Wakefield's study (DN, October 1997) said: "This study is at least a start but doctors must do more research. I believe these children have a sensitivity to vaccinations."



Julie, Aaron and Nathan Baugh. The study is a "start", Julie said.

Disabled clothing goes made-to-measure

Perfect-fitting clothes could soon be easier to buy in the high street if a Lottery-funded project started this month by a group of disability clothing services proves successful.

Umbrella group Awear, formerly known as the National Association of Clothing

Workshops, has won £292,000 from the Lottery to develop an automatic pattern generation programme that will give an accurate record of people's measurements to retailers.

Director Sid Jurka said he hopes eventually customers will be able to go into stores with a

storecard that carries their measurements. "We want to arrange with the manufacturers that for certain styles someone can come in and then send us their measurements," he said.

These could then be entered into the programme for a new pattern to be worked up, but

the clothing itself would still be manufactured by the retailer.

Stores will face extra costs with such a system, but Jurka wants to make sure the final price will be the same as for off the peg garments. "There are costs involved in selling off stock that is left over," he said.

Footie fan fights ban

A disabled Manchester woman is continuing her fight to win back her seat on the disabled supporters' platform at Manchester United.

Erica Walsh, 31, has been a keen supporter of the club since 1992 but lost her right to sit on the platform after members of the executive committee of the Manchester United Disabled Supporters Association (MUDSA) claimed they saw her walking (DN, March).

Ms Walsh, who has a head injury, wrote to MUDSA but was told by secretary Phil Downs that her case would not be reviewed unless she could provide medical evidence.

She has now provided a letter from her GP, and her MP Beverly Hughes has written pleading her case. But Mr Downs told DN that this did not change anything.

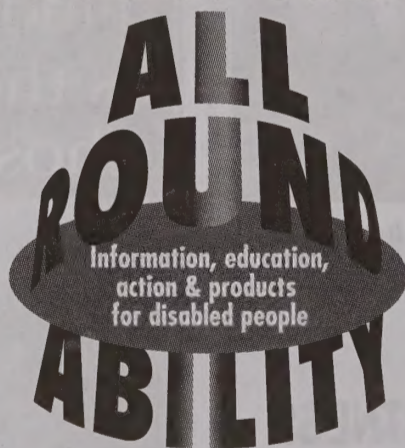
"The letter from the GP says Erica is capable of walking but in crowds she needs to use a wheelchair," he said. "So this does not change the circumstances. All it does is bring us back to the original offer made to Erica some time ago that she can use a wheelchair to get into the grounds and the staff of St John Ambulance will assist her to get to an ordinary seat."

But Ms Walsh said the offer was insufficient because she would not be near her wheelchair in an emergency.

All Round Ability 1998. Calling all exhibitors.

The time to act is now.

The second All Round Ability Exhibition will take place at the London Arena on 6 and 7 November. In addition to the SCOPE National Conference delegates the exhibition will attract professional visitors, as well as people with disabilities, their families and carers. It's a unique opportunity to meet potential customers in a



purpose-built venue barely 15 minutes from central London. For full details of the exhibition and latest stand availability please fax the form to the exhibition organisers on 0181 293 5895 or call on 0181 293 5903.

All Round Ability organisers are: **Maria Adderley & Associates, 209 Greenwich High Road, London SE10 8NB.**

In partnership with
The Guardian

SCOPE
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

THE ROYAL ASSOCIATION FOR
RADAR
DISABILITY & REHABILITATION

Equal Voices - Equal Choices

FAX THIS FORM FOR DETAILS

Name..... Job title.....
Organisation..... Type of product/service.....
Address.....
Postcode.....
Telephone..... Fax.....

Please send me ☐ an information pack ☐ latest stand availability ☐ an exhibitors list

Simply fax this form to Ruth Hall at 0181 293 5895

European jobs plan is too weak

New moves to help all European disabled people find work are not strong enough, a conference heard last month.

Under guidelines approved by ministers in December, member states will for the first time have to produce national action plans aimed at tackling unemployment, including unemployment among disabled people.

Although they will not be legally binding, the first action plans will have to be submitted by 15 April and they will be renewed annually.

Speaking at a conference in London organised by the Royal National Institute for the Blind, Angel Ballesteros, an expert in European business law, said the guidelines do not make any specific suggestions about the kinds of action member states

could take in relation to disabled people, whereas such steps are outlined for men and women.

He later told DN: "Member governments could implement it in a very detailed and specific manner or produce reports which are so vague and inconclusive that they do not need to be acted upon. The real need is for legally binding legislation."

But UK Equal Opportunities Minister Alan Howarth insisted that member states "will have to consider the needs of disabled people in the context of their mainstream strategies".

A European Commission consultation paper, *Raising Employment Levels of People with Disabilities*, aimed to help develop next year's plans, will be completed later this year.

Video shows off adaptations

A video breaks new ground by showing how historic buildings can be made accessible for people with different disabilities.

English Heritage, the Centre for Accessible Environments (CAE) and the Corporation of London have jointly produced *Keeping Up with the Past*. It shows how early consultation with disabled people and others and design audits can help architects to overcome problems in buildings. This has happened in London at buildings

like the National Portrait Gallery and Royal Academy.

Lottery distribution requirements that accessibility must be built into projects has unleashed much creative thinking, said CAE director Sarah Langton-Lockton. "The Disability Discrimination Act is also proving to be a huge catalyst," she said.

£14.10 (£12 plus VAT) from CAE, Nutmeg House, 60 Gainsford Street, London SE1 2NY, tel: 0171-357 8182.

Boxing ban 'illogical'

The British Medical Association (BMA) is wrong to call for a ban on boxing at the moment, an academic has claimed in a new report.

The resolution calling for boxing to be banned was adopted by the BMA General Council back in 1982.

But writing in the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, Dr Nigel Warburton, a lecturer in philosophy for the Open University, claims that the number of deaths caused in other sports is much higher.

Whereas the number of deaths from boxing in England and Wales between 1986 and

1992 was just three, there were 77 deaths in motor sports, 69 in air sports, 54 in mountaineering and 40 in ball games.

Smoking and drinking are also far more harmful to a person's long-term health, he says.

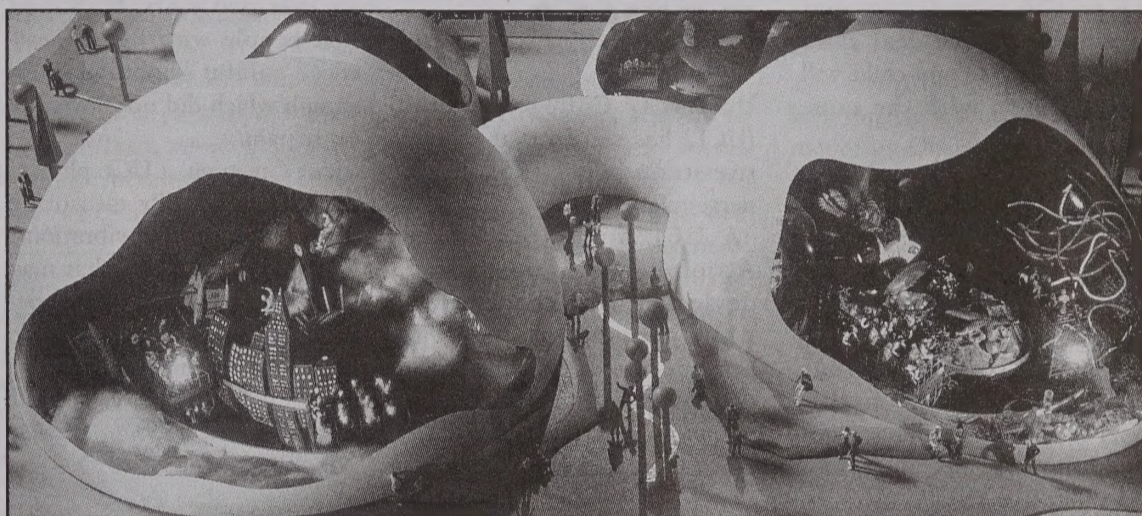
Dr Warburton said: "If you wanted to minimise the number of actual injuries in Britain you would be far better coming up with better rules for motor sports or rock climbing.

"We have to prevent people from taking risks that they do not know about. It should not be the BMA's place to call for a ban, rather to let people know what the risks are. There are

lots of other areas where consenting adults take risks and harm each other, such as smoking or drinking alcohol. Very few people have argued for their criminalisation."

He feared that a ban would force boxing underground, making it more dangerous.

But Dr Vivienne Nathanson, head of science and ethics at the BMA, said: "The real risk of serious injury per boxing encounter is far higher than in any other sport. It would be astounding if a professional medical organisation were not to highlight the very real dangers that boxing represents."



Vision for the future? Dreamscape, one of the fully accessible attractions proposed for the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. David Phillips, chairman of the Millennium advisory group on accessibility, is optimistic that the views of disabled people will be taken on board in the dome's construction. But he said: "We want to ensure staff have disability awareness training and disabled people get jobs."

Creating opportunities with disabled people

LEONARD CHESHIRE

Did you know Leonard Cheshire? Or have you ever been involved with a Leonard Cheshire Service?

As part of our Golden Jubilee celebrations we are holding a number of **Thanksgiving Services** around the country to celebrate the life and work of Group Captain Lord Leonard Cheshire VC OM.

If you would like to attend one of the following Services, please call Lucy Hampton for further information on 0171 828 1822.

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral	3 May
Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff	24 May
York Minster	14 June
St Paul's Cathedral, London	27 Sept
St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh	17 Oct
St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast	TBC


CAREMOR
STAIRLIFTS

**For the finest Quality and Service
in New & Reconditioned Stairlifts!**



At Caremor Stairlifts we have a wealth of knowledge and experience that will help guide you to the best and most cost effective solution to your stairlift needs.

- Free Design & Planning
- Wide range to choose from, Straight/Curved
- Fitted in less than a day
- No Disruption & No Damage
- Written 10 YEAR Warranty

FREEPHONE 0500 104510
To arrange your Free Consultation and Brochure

Test for deafness

Genetic testing for one of the major causes of deafness in unborn children could soon become a reality.

The development of the test follows the discovery of the connexin-26 gene by Professor Bob Mueller at St James's Hospital in Leeds last year.

Now the research team's work with 68 people from the UK and Belgium has confirmed the findings of the 1997 study – that a genetic mutation of the connexin-26 gene is responsible for 10 per cent of all cases of non-syndromal deafness (loss of hearing not associated with other conditions).

Professor Mueller, said: "Now it is possible to predict amongst families with one deaf child whether their second child will also be born with the same condition."

No funds for drugs

Two new Alzheimer's drugs that could be on the market later this year might not get health authority funding, said

the Alzheimer's Disease Society. Trials of the drugs, Metrifonate and Exelon, have indicated that they could help people with the condition. Both have yet to receive approval from the European Medicines Evaluation Agency.

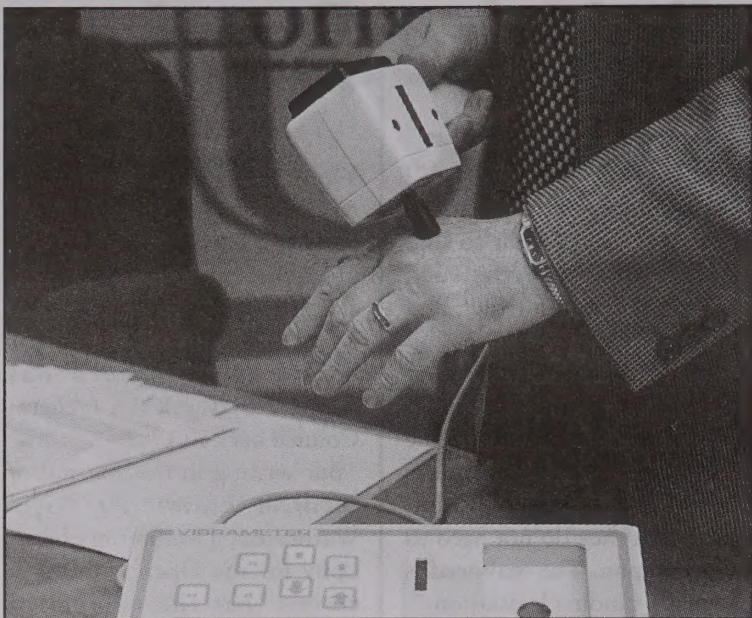
But the Alzheimer's Disease Society claimed the next hurdle will be the health authorities. A spokeswoman said: "Few health authorities have put the Alzheimer's drug, Aricept, on their budgets. We are worried they won't be able to fund these either."

Both drugs work by preventing the breakdown of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, known to be affected by the onset of the disease.

RSI hits nerves

University College London (UCL) has shown that repetitive strain injury (RSI) has a nerve-related cause.

A UCL study, funded by Action Research, used a new device called a vibrameter, which measures how well sensory nerves in the hand are working. This can be used to show how nerves might be affected by repetitive actions.



Good vibrations: the vibrametre identifies those at risk from RSI

ROD LEON PHOTOGRAPHY

The vibrameter has been tested on a group of people with RSI and "at risk" office workers over two years. It showed that people with RSI experienced painful symptoms from stimuli which did not normally cause pain.

Jane Greening, a UCL physiotherapist, said: "By measuring the tolerance to the vibrations, we can screen groups that may be at risk from RSI. If detected early enough, changes can be made and treatment given."

Action Research, tel: (01403) 210 406

Speech drug doubt

The British Stammering Association (BSA) has expressed doubts over an anti-psychotic drug hailed as a miracle cure for stammering.

The drug, Zyprexa, is being studied by scientists at Rochester University, New York, who are looking into its effects on Tourette's Syndrome, a psychiatric condition.

They are also planning to carry out clinical trials on 50

volunteers who stammer. The results will be examined by BSA.

Claire Lindsay of BSA has warned: "We already know that this drug has lots of side effects. It is a long way down the line before we will know if it will be of any use to stammerers."

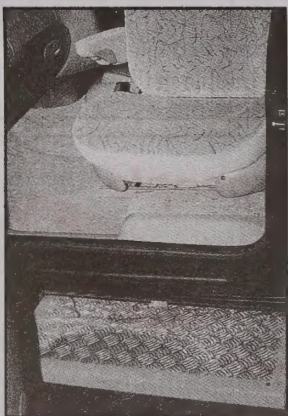
The British Stammering Association, tel: 0845-603 2001

Mice grow new tails

Scars from wounds and operations could be a thing of the past, thanks to some American laboratory mice.

Scientists at the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia have discovered that a group of laboratory mice could regenerate their own livers after surgery and grow new tails when their own were severed.

The mice were a standard type sold for laboratory use and had been given no special treatment. It is hoped research on them will help answer questions such as why human adults cannot regenerate severed limbs or why wounds leave scars but surgery on new born babies heals without a trace.



More Capacity
6 Persons including wheelchair

More Options
Telescopic side steps
Choice of wheelchair ramps
Choice of wheelchair securing
Detachable tow bar

More choice
Full Volkswagen Sharan
Model Range

More value For Money
Fully adapted from
£17,650



ACCESSIBLE SHARAN

gives you
MORE



More Original Features
Volkswagen seating
Volkswagen seatbelts
Volkswagen braking system
Volkswagen fuel tank
Volkswagen full size spare wheel
Modified Volkswagen rear bumper bar
Volkswagen lock and catch mechanisms
Volkswagen vehicle roof
Volkswagen interior roof lining
Volkswagen vehicle options
Volkswagen three year warranty

More Independence
free no obligation home trial
and assessment period

**MORE SECURITY OFFERED BY THE LARGEST
ACCESSIBLE VOLKSWAGEN SHARAN PRODUCER**

All vehicles can be tailored to individual needs
Telephone to arrange a no obligation one day trial



AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
24 DIANA STREET, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE4 6BQ
TELEPHONE: (0191) 226 0099 FAX: (0191) 272 1313



In brief

Barbecue time

'Give disabled children an equal chance in life' is the theme of Scope's first national fund-raising week, 1-7 June, when people all over the country will hold barbecues to raise money for Scope's work. Celebrity supporters include Ben Elton, Sally Gunnell and Gary Lineker, chef Anthony Worrall Thompson, Fern Britton of BBC's *Ready Steady Cook* programme and presenters from Talk Radio. For an info pack, tel: 0500-575 222.

Blind in better focus

A campaign to raise the profile of visually impaired people in the workplace and persuade employers to provide information in alternative formats was launched at the House of Commons last month.

Let Blind People Hear What You Write is supported by Education and Employment Secretary David Blunkett.

The Talking Newspaper Association of the United Kingdom (TNAUK) is planning a conference and exhibition on 29-30 May in Hove, Sussex, to raise awareness among employers and others.

An annual award for the most innovative use of audio signals has been launched.

TNAUK, tel: (01435) 866102.

News for everyone

Innovations In Information is a magazine produced by the National Information Forum for "everyone who needs to inform". The February edition includes articles on information 'starvation', how to find the helpline number you need, and advice from publicist Max Clifford on promoting your work. For a copy, contact NIF, tel: 0171-404 3846.

Ramblers bank on bridge U-turn

Campaigners are calling on the Countryside Commission to make a last-minute U-turn and provide disabled access for a new bridge across the Thames after the Government decided not to intervene in the issue.

Dr Mike Bruton, chairman of the Disabled Drivers' Association's countryside access group, said he had been hoping for a change of heart on the bridge near Lechlade after Equal Opportunities Minister Alan Howarth criticised the Commission's attitude in a letter to its chief executive Richard Wakeford.

The Government had put a holding notice on the planning application for the bridge. But it decided not to intervene as it was not a national concern.

Dr Bruton has now written to Countryside Commission

chairman Richard Simmonds again to highlight his concerns. He told *DN* he hoped Howarth's letter could still change minds.

Howarth said he found the agency's stance disappointing, "in particular the reasoning that, because this stretch is perceived to be inaccessible to wheelchair users, an inaccessible bridge would be justified".

Many barriers, Howarth went on, "were put there in times before disabled people's needs were considered worthy of any attention. It would be a shame, therefore, not to have learned from that experience".

Dr Bruton said he felt the issue was important because the bridge is part of the new Thames Trail, which is mostly flat and therefore suitable for disabled ramblers.



Flare for fashion: top model Iris Palmer launches a new line of '70s fashions for Scope. The clothes, recycled by volunteers, will be sold at Scope's second-hand retro stand at The Cosmopolitan Show in London from 30 April and at selected shops after that.

PATRICK HARRISON

Snow way to win us medals

Britain skidded out of the reckoning for medals at the winter Paralympic Games last month, blaming a lack of funds.

The best the Brits could manage at the games in Nagano, Japan, was two fourth places for Peter Young in the biathlon and the five kilometre cross-country skiing event.

Overall Norway came top of the medal table, with 18 golds, and 40 medals altogether.

Jane Swan, general secretary of the British Paralympic Association (BPA), said: "The medal table is still dominated by countries which have ready access to ice and snow. Our major problem is that it is extremely expensive to spend time on snow training. The non-snow countries who did well were the ones who managed to spend significant amounts of time on snow before the games."

The sledge hockey team could only train once rinks closed after midnight, she said. And the BPA failed in an application



Goodhew and Holmes: support

to the National Lottery for winter sports money last year.

Meanwhile, Loughborough University has set up an Institute of Youth Sport to look at links between sport for disabled youth and the elite to help nurture talent. Paralympic medallist Chris Holmes, who welcomed the new trust, along with non-disabled medallist Duncan Goodhew, said: "Every child must have the opportunity to enjoy sport."

And Britain's wheelchair basketball squad looks set to be able to train full-time thanks to a £400,000 grant from the Sports Council.

CAN BE DONE

TOURS AND HOLIDAYS FOR ALL

When accessibility counts for so much in a holiday, look no further!! All the accommodation we recommend has been checked by one of our representatives.

It's impossible to list our full range of tours, overseas holidays, self-drive and adventure holidays in this limited space.

New for 1998 are accessible scheduled daytrips from London

CAN BE DONE LIMITED

7-11 Kensington High Street, London W8 5NP

Tel: 0181-907 2400

Fax: 0181-909 1854



AFFORDABLE FREEDOM IN SCOTLAND



New Fiat Scudo/Peugeot Expert From £12,995

Fiat Fiorino 1.7 Diesel 1994L New Conversion £6,495

VW Caravelle 2.4 Diesel 1993K 5 Seats Wheelchair, Ramp £9,995

Escort 1.4P Chairman 1987E Lowerable Susp. £3,495

Gleneagles
Conversions Ltd

95 Bonnygate, CUPAR, Fife

01334 657722

One of the best-selling health care beds



- A care bed with probably the quickest assembly time!
- 4 section fully electrically operated mattress support with kneebreak
- Finished in natural Beech wood veneer

Rollators and commodes



Further range of products
toilet seats, mattresses,
bathing aids.

Visit us on stand N° 248 at
the "NAIDEX" exhibition
at Earls Court
on June 23-25 th '98.



• High-functional beds and exclusive furniture

CASAgarden
Health care products and furniture

For Casa-Garden U.K.:
Nexus DMS Ltd. • Reha Pro (Div)
41 Frankley Avenue • Halesowen
West Midlands • B62 0EA
Tel. 0121 421 2621 • Fax 0121 421 2621



No ideal home here

90 years old: when will they learn, ask Adam Thomas and Agnes Fletcher

The Ideal Home Show started in 1908. 1928 saw the first House of the Future. It had a lift.

Ninety years on, general facilities for disabled visitors continue to improve, yet the organisers haven't caught on to the idea of disabled people as customers – and still none of the “show homes” have lifts.

Concept Living is a “spectacular contemporary feature” of this year's exhibition. Its centrepiece is the high-tech Oyster House, a building where “futuristic house design meets sustainable living.” Alternative, futuristic and ecologically friendly it may be, but accessible it ain't. The house is raised on a platform with three large steps at all four approaches, and no ramp.

The Oyster House itself is open-plan and flexible inside – at least that's the way it looks through the glass walls – but there is no mention of access for disabled people in all the reams of promotional material.

We saw one man who uses a walker having to crawl up the steps, so determined was he to go inside. Disability Action Network (DAN) has far more important things to deal with just now, but this is shoddy behaviour from the organisers.

The Mad Hatter, one of the



No Mad Hatter: “ridiculous”, he said, that the “futuristic” Oyster House ignored disabled people

APOLLO PHOTOGRAPHERS

show's wandering entertainers, had a sane view of the “concept” – “It's ridiculous, isn't it?”

Anxious PR people collected in droves. They excused the architect – fair enough, it wasn't his decision to build the model house on an inaccessible platform. Then they tried to blame Earl's Court's health and safety officers (same old story).

They just hadn't thought about access for disabled people. We told them this wasn't good enough, but they don't think they will be able to

do anything this year. Do we have to wait another 90 years?

The PR people did respond positively to suggestions about putting exhibition information on tape and in braille. They said they'd get in touch.

One place where modern design does offer good access features is the *Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms Magazine* stand, which gives free guidance from experts using computer aided design.

One display stood out. Zeyko's Mobilo (tel: (01628) 531584) range offers enormous flexibility and is very accessible, with many features useful for people who have mobility impairments or difficulty reaching and grasping. These include worktops which can be set at any height, pull-out and revolving carousels, and tall units which rotate completely with little effort. All the furniture is free-standing, so can be moved around the room – or to another home.

This year's exhibition theme is parks and gardens and, ironically, it is the Victorian Park with bandstand and boating lake which is fully accessible, featuring low level controls to move the model boats. This is a tranquil place to recover from the punishing 14 acres of the exhibition.

Barclays Mortgages (tel: 0800-000 929) are sponsors again this year and their stand offers a “step back in time” to the genteel elegance of an authentic Edwardian home. The stand has ramped access, showing that tradition can be combined with accessibility, if the will is there.

Barclays is offering a complete



“Enormous flexibility”: Adam with the Zeyko Mobilo kitchen range

mortgage service, were well-informed about the Disability Discrimination Act, and spoke of their provision for disabled people as an extension of focusing on individuals. Their standard mortgage literature will soon be in braille.

The Showhouse Village once again features mock-Tudor and flint-type estate homes from Bellway, Wimpey, Crest and



A bit of fantasy, and a sit down, at the Natural Hair Collection

House Beautiful. It is as inaccessible as always. They might not be breaking the law at the moment, but the extension of Part M, the access bit of the building regulations, to new houses (see page 5) means they soon will be.

Never mind the “array of eye-catching features” in the brochure, there are plenty of toe-catching ones this year. Press day had one sixth of its usual visitors, yet we saw five people trip over small, almost invisible steps. One woman fell full-length and grazed her arm quite badly. So much for health and safety.

The atmosphere upstairs with the smaller knick-knack and gadget stands is friendly and fun. We tried out some hand-held and chair massagers – always popular for pain relief and relaxation but very pricey. Vibrating hairbrushes and The Feng Shui (tel: 0181-293 4471) stand are good for a giggle, offering a “110 per cent transcendental cure for relationship problems” (the Feng Shui, not the hairbrush).

The ultimate in adjustable beds



Awake refreshed after a comfortable night's sleep in a bodyflex adjustable bed. So beneficial to those who suffer back pain, arthritic and rheumatic pain, the Bodyflex bed allows you to adjust to the ideal sleeping position simply at the touch of a button.

Our carefully designed contour system relieves the stresses and strains of a busy life and leaves you relaxed and free from tension and pain.

5 YEAR WARRANTY **FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A FREE HOME DEMONSTRATION** **PRICES AS LOW AS £699 EX VAT**

FREEPHONE: 0800 7837438

To: Bodyflex Limited, Freeport MID17657 Grantham NG31 7BR

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____ Telephone: _____

bodyflex **ultimate comfort**

Do you have a disability? Find out how the Disability Discrimination Act affects you.

The Act protects your rights in employment, and access to goods, facilities and services so it's in your interest to find out more. Call 0345 622 633, textphone 0345 622 644 quoting OC/DNC, or fill in this coupon and send it to DDA Information Line, FREEPOST MID 02164, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9BR.



disability - on the agenda

Name _____ Address _____
Telephone _____ Postcode _____



Department for
Education and Employment

OC/DNC

A brave ewe world

Dolly the sheep could change the face of disability. One of her creators explains why to Rod Hermeston

A year after the world was told of the existence of Dolly the sheep at Edinburgh's Roslin Institute, Dr Harry Griffin, its assistant director of science, is still wrestling with the can of ethical worms she opened.

Since then scientists in the USA have produced a cloned calf and another says he intends to clone humans.

But amid fears about genetic research, Dr Griffin says the technology pioneered at Roslin offers hope to many people.

"While we have the media portraying genetic engineering as one of the horsemen of the apocalypse, we also get letters from parents of children with cystic fibrosis telling us to keep up the good work," he says.

He has come a long way since his childhood in Preston.

"I had an interest in living things during a golden age in biology," he says. "For instance, the electron microscope was allowing you to see cells."

He studied at Leeds and started at Roslin as a biochemist in 1978. Having seen the genetic research project develop from scratch,

he is now kept busy explaining Roslin's cloning programme to the media and in schools.

Dolly is in fact the outcome of only one of a number of techniques Dr Griffin's team has pioneered. These include transgenic technology, which involves placing human DNA – the blueprint for life – in the already fertilised eggs of other animals. The resulting animal will carry human genes.

Roslin has used the technique to create animals which produce human proteins in

'If your intention is to aim for perfection, that is not morally justified'

their milk which are being tested on people with cystic fibrosis. It helps prevent inflammation. A product could be on the market by 2001.

But it is still early days, Dr Griffin says: "We started work on transgenic animals in the early 1980s and it is only now that we are seeing a product come into clinical trials. To meet people taking part in the trials is a pleasure."

With Dolly, scientists took the nucleus or central part of a cell from one sheep and put it inside a sheep's ovum whose DNA they had removed. It was then placed in the womb of another animal and was born

as Dolly – an exact replica of the first sheep. The technique is known as nuclear transfer.

But now Roslin has cloned a lamb called Polly, in which the cell nucleus was altered to contain human genes before being put inside an empty egg. Polly can produce the human blood-clotting protein Factor IX in her milk, which could treat people with haemophilia.

The team also hope to use the technique to produce human albumin in milk to treat burns.

So they can now produce clones genetically altered to make medicine, and hope to breed flocks from them.

But the more milk you have, the more medicines you can produce. And cows produce more milk than sheep. So a calf called Mr Jefferson, cloned like Dolly, and born on 16 February, has been produced in Virginia by an American branch of PPL Therapeutics which also worked on Dolly.

Roslin is now looking at knocking out genes in pig cells, which would prevent their

organs from being rejected when they are transplanted into the human body.

But Griffin doubts that development will go further than that. "I personally cannot see it going beyond hearts and kidneys," he says. "Connecting



Facts not fiction: Harry Griffin

up something as complicated as an eye would be impossible."

He also has some doubts about how much the techniques

will be used to knock out human disabilities.

"Parents who know they carry cystic fibrosis have the option of selective abortion," he says. "It is much simpler and is accepted in the UK. I do not feel uncomfortable about screening for Down's syndrome or cystic fibrosis, but if your intention is to aim for perfection then that is not morally justified."

"In the press there is often the assertion that parents are looking for perfect children. I do not think that is true."

As for cloning whole humans, he says: "It may become possible to clone a human but at the moment it is impractical. We used 400 unfertilised eggs in our experiment to produce just one Dolly."

Cloned lambs often die young, he adds. Dolly may also be mutton dressed as lamb: DNA may play a role in ageing. Dolly's DNA was taken from an older sheep, so she may have a shortened lifespan.

"Scientists may overcome these problems," says Dr Griffin. "So we need a clear ethical view on what we might be able to use nuclear transfer for in humans."

"This technology is at a very early stage. There is no way it should be used in humans. We are not professional ethicists but we have a responsibility to participate in the debate."

Meanwhile, Rachel Hurst, director of Disability Awareness in Action, says genetic engineering wrongly stresses the worthlessness of disabled people.

"Its usefulness needs to be enhanced, and the negative should not be allowed," she says.

Dolly, meanwhile, is oblivious to all the fuss and expecting a lamb in early summer.



Hello Dolly: unaware of the fuss, the famous sheep is now expecting

THE SIMPLE SOLUTION

THE QUIET RISER™ POWERED BACKREST

Maintain comfort and independence without the need for assistance from a carer. The Huntleigh Quiet Riser is a cost effective solution, easily fitted to an existing divan bed. At the press of a button the user can sit up and read or lie down and sleep. *Helps post-operative rehabilitation for those where self movement is difficult or painful.*



FOR A FREE DEMONSTRATION CALL 0151 236 5311

Enjoy the benefits of the Quiet Riser at an affordable price. This product is also part of our Retail Programme, ring for details.

Huntleigh
KINETICS



Regent Street, Liverpool L3 7BN
Tel: 0151 236 5311 Fax: 0151 236 4698

STAIR CLIMBING AND STANDING UP SOLUTIONS



- UK's largest range of stairclimbers
- Prices from £2,850-£12,500
- User operated
- Carer controlled
- No building alterations
- Used at work, school and home
- Free demonstrations

Many architectural barriers can be dealt with by climbing stairs, or by standing up and reaching new heights. With a large choice of models the correct solution can be found from total user independence to attendant assisted. Our range of ramps for home, car, travel, complete the solution options.

FREE DEMONSTRATIONS, ASSESSMENTS.

CONTACT
JOHN CHAMBERLAIN
WHEELCHAIR
CORPORATION LTD
Inc Moor House, Chelmarsh, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 6AZ
Tel: 01746 861940 Mobile: 0374 274919 Fax: 01746 862085



- Stand up at home, work
- Socially, sports, leisure
- Improves general health
- Folding manual model
- All powered options
- Simple one hand control
- Use at a rehabilitation centre

Direct Action Network brought American-style campaigning to the UK five years ago. David Varo-Watson reports on its impact

Michael Price from Daventry is now in a wheelchair after a lifetime in front of a blackboard as a science teacher.

He says he wants to take to the streets and scream his frustration at the discrimination he faces every day. But he cannot. He needs others who will do it for him.

Last December's "bloody" protest at the gates of Downing Street, when disabled people chained themselves to the railings, flung red paint about and rolled in it, had Michael's full support.

The protest was organised by DAN (Direct Action Network), a London-based disability rights group which advocates confrontational campaigning.

"DAN was formed five years ago to take direct action on issues of civil rights," says one of the founders, Barbara Lisicki.

It has tended to focus on a single issue, accessible transport, because that was the best way to be successful. But it has also campaigned on civil rights bills, with disabled people chaining themselves to buses and blocking off Whitehall – "we have the capacity to do that".

Most recently it has highlighted disabled people's fears about benefits cuts.

In February DAN's first national day of action targeted London, Liverpool, Bristol, West Bromwich and Nottingham.

In April, its 10th National Action is planned to run for three days and include Number 10.

Direct action began in America in the 1960s. The late Ed Roberts forced the University of California at Berkeley to take him on as a student. Within four years there were 12 disabled students. He told ITV's disability programme *Link*: "We began to feel we were fighting for our own independence, and if there was a future out there in the community we had to really think how to do it, how we were going to make ourselves free."

Disabled people all over the States began to demand access to buildings and public transport, adequate funding to get them out of institutions, off welfare benefits and into work.

In the 1970s, their aspirations were drafted into the Rehabilitation Act, only to be vetoed by President Nixon. So began a mass upsurge of action. Traffic in Manhattan was brought to a standstill and, after a similar

Does it work?



DAN members hold up a London bus during a demo in February

BRENT MOORE

protest in Washington, Congress over-ruled the veto.

Barbara Lisicki and co-founder Alan Holdsworth witnessed an ADAPT protest for accessible transport in San Francisco in 1992. "It was mind-blowing, one of the most extraordinary things I had ever been involved in. Five to six hundred people on the streets. We had never seen anything on that scale in Britain and we said 'we need it here'."

Back in the UK they consulted people, held a conference, and DAN was born. Now the core group has "several thousand" experienced supporters around the country.

Holdsworth, Lisicki and Andy Gill run DAN, travel and raise money in their own time.

"We have to raise awareness and we have to bring to the negotiating table those people who can give us what we want," says Alan Holdsworth.

But does that happen? Prime Minister Tony Blair

dismissed the December protest. "Those people who were out throwing paint at Downing Street were chaining themselves to Labour Party headquarters before the Election. This happens whenever you put through change."

And the office of Equal Opportunities Minister Alan Howarth said he had no contribution to make to the debate over direct action.

For Barbara Lisicki the fact that Tony Blair mentions DAN at all is a plus. She argues that DAN has been crucial in securing accessible buses and pushing the Government to name a date. It has won access to the Robin Hood line in Nottinghamshire and a commitment by Central Trains to make all their lines accessible by the end of this year.

DAN may have speeded up change, but it has alienated people too. Some newspapers have been actively hostile.

A N Wilson in *The Sunday*

Telegraph under the headline "How not to win friends" described the Downing Street protest as "grotesque ... the Government could not have devised a better way of making otherwise compassionate members of the public approve of another round of 'cuts'."

And Ann Leslie wrote in the *Daily Mail*: "The politically correct gorillas of 'anti-abilism' are not interested in the views of the majority: they seek by a mixture of bullying, whining and the dreary jargon of 'rights' to impose their views on everyone else."

Rachel Hurst, chair of Rights

Now, retaliates: "Non-violent campaigns are important and if people find it distasteful they have not grasped the level of discrimination."

DAN has found that support runs ahead of alienation. "Of course the idea is to get people to take notice," argues Barbara Lisicki. "Even if they get angry at the time, they agree with the issues. They disagree with the tactics."

Donald Sperry from Leicester, who has been paralysed since falling from a roof 14 years ago, thinks direct action must be tempered. "More can be achieved through constructive dialogue and debate."

Lorna Reith, director of Disability Alliance, says: "We recognise the importance of non-violent direct action but realise it cannot succeed without traditional methods of campaigning like lobbying and consultation."

Perhaps DAN's greatest contribution has been to bring some disabled people together and make them feel empowered.

Liz Carr, a Nottingham member, says: "Direct action is in your face. Disabled people are supposed to be invisible; they are not supposed to go out and be seen. Direct action has changed this. We are noticed."

DAN, 3 Crawley Road, Wood Green, London N22 6AN, tel: 0181-889 1361, e-mail: dan@entertrainers.demon.co.uk
Donations gratefully accepted.

David Varo-Watson is a disabled journalist working for Carlton Television.

Leaving money to someone with a learning disability

HOW CAN YOU LEAVE MONEY in your Will to someone with a learning disability (what used to be known as mental handicap) who may not be able to manage money or property on their own? And how do you do so without reducing their entitlement to State help? The answers are in an informative FREE booklet from Mencap (The Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults). For your copy, write to:

Marion Young, Mencap, Room 115, FREEPOST,
123 Golden Lane, London EC1B 1AA
or phone FREE, quoting reference 115, on

0500 243444

A registered charity No. 222377

BACKPAIN • ARTHRITIS • HIATUS HERNIA

The Concern for Comfort Adjustable Bed has proved to be a boon to sufferers of a wide variety of medical conditions. If you are troubled by:



Get in and out of bed more easily
Put your feet up, unwind and relax
Sleep in a comfortable natural position

- arthritis/rheumatism
- high & low back pain
- hiatus hernia
- swollen legs/oedema
- poor circulation
- tight shoulders
- respiratory problems
- stress & tension

CONCERN FOR COMFORT
...the rest comes naturally

Send for a FREE colour brochure

FREEPHONE 0800 371663

Name(Title) _____
Phone _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

CONCERN FOR COMFORT • FREEPOST (PAM 6722) LONDON W13 0BR



Holy smoke and hell fire

Prohibiting cannabis won't work and doesn't deserve to, says Bishop Richard Holloway

Saying that an act is wrong because it is forbidden by God is not sufficient unless we can also say it is wrong on moral grounds.

If we can use the idea of harm as our moral criterion, we will probably be drawn to admit that no act of consensual sex between responsible adults can be immoral simply because of the sex, through it may be on other grounds.

The basis of the almost universal condemnation of adultery is the betrayal of trust and the violation of a promise.

Even here there can be exceptions, such as the case of the man who had been faithfully married to his wife for 30 years when she contracted Alzheimer's disease. He continues to nurse her faithfully, though she has long since gone into that far country that is the tragic fate of those who suffer from the disease.

A few years ago he and a

family friend, who assists him in the arduous care of his wife, became lovers. Together they strengthen one another in their care for the woman they are theoretically sinning against. Is any actual harm being committed here, except in the formal sense?

This is an example of the way in which genuinely good things can be in conflict with one another, so that mature people try to learn to live with contradictions rather than insisting on neat resolutions.

Our search for basic moral principles, if we are wise, will always allow for situational variations of this sort. Morality is as much an art as a science and it calls for a certain versatility from us, that ability to improvise and respond to actual circumstances.

A good example is provided by the current debate about the medical use of cannabis...

Here is a natural substance we have decided to ban as a recreational drug. We subsequently discover that, used in certain forms under medical supervision, it has beneficial effects on people suffering from incurable

and distressing diseases...

Take Keith, who has AIDS... He began taking a puff or two of marijuana before eating, enough to give him an appetite without getting stoned. Fortunately, Keith lives in California where seriously ill people can obtain marijuana upon the recommendation of a physician... Without the marijuana to stimulate his appetite he would be dead today.

Now, even if we support the ban on its use as a recreational drug, what is the moral argument against using cannabis to benefit the sick? If we argue that the drug is banned because it harms people, how can we apply that as an argument against using the substance medically to benefit people?

...The real problem with the debate about drugs is that it takes place across a broad front that prevents us from looking at it in purely moral terms. There are more than echoes here of the ancient culture of sin and witchcraft that hold certain substances or natural activities to be wrong in themselves, inherently wicked.

There is also, and this is probably the most powerful element in the current debate, the effect of political considerations on moral attitudes.

We know that public opinion has a profound influence on politicians, who, apart from wanting to stay in power, have to practise the art of the

'What is the moral argument against using cannabis to benefit the sick?'

possible and cannot be too far ahead of their constituents on controversial topics.

And there is the reluctance we have just noticed to recognise the complexity of morality...

The flaw in the prohibitionist approach is that it seems to be inconsistent with other values we prize in an open society.. It is clearly a good thing to want to protect vulnerable people from the consequences of certain behaviours, but it is also a good thing to allow responsible people maximum

freedom, within acceptable limits, to manage their lives according to their own desires...

In open societies prohibitions that do not have the overwhelming consent of the people are almost impossible to police and can end up corrupting the system that is there to enforce them.

There is a middle way between absolute prohibition and absolute license... The history of tobacco use is a good example... adults will now calculate the risks and benefits of smoking differently...

This swift survey illustrates the dynamic nature of societies as they struggle with the impact of human appetites upon the common good... but there do come moments when a particular combination of circumstances calls for a deeper investigation of all the factors involved. We seem to have reached one of those moments.

This is an abridged version of a speech given at Gresham College, London, in February by the Bishop of Edinburgh, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Freedom, Independence and Reliability.

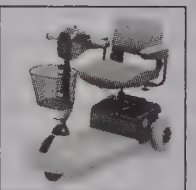
Powerchairs promise you:

- A caring service from a family run business.
- Unique price guarantee that you can't buy cheaper anywhere.
- Up to 8mph for road use.
- Free home assessments.
- Free 12 months insurance on new models.
- No VAT.
- No driving license required.
- Low deposit finance available on request.
- Will carry up to 32 stone.
- Between 10-35 miles on one charge
- Automatic battery charge included.
- All major credit cards accepted.

We buy second-hand electric wheelchairs and scooters.

100s of nearly new machines in stock at prices to suit all pockets.

Part exchanges welcome.



For further help and advice FREEPHONE

0500 357496

PowerchairS
Est 1982
MOBILITY CONSULTANTS

Labour shows its hand

In the ninth report in this series, Rod Hermeston sees what Labour's New Deal has to offer

The new Government clearly meant business when it promised equal opportunities for disabled people last May.

Disabled youngsters on Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) will be forced to take part in the New Deal for young people along with everyone else, or face losing benefit when the scheme goes national in April. People on disability benefits are also to benefit from £195 million in funding set aside to help them into work.

The New Deal scheme has been up and running in 12 pilot areas since January.

Those who have been unemployed for six months enter the scheme through a "gateway" period of up to four months during which time they will get a personal advisor and perhaps some basic training.

The Government hopes 40 per cent of people in the gateway will find a mainstream job before the end of the period. Those who do not can then take part in one of four options. All involve training for at least one day a week.

The options are:

- A paid job in the private sector, with a weekly £60 Government subsidy for the first six months. The wage should be level with colleagues doing the same job.
- Six months in the voluntary sector with pay equal to JSA plus £15 and some expenses.
- A six month placement on the new environmental taskforce, which provides support for environmental projects, with the same pay as for the voluntary sector option.
- A vocational college course lasting up to one year, with benefits and travel expenses.

Stacey Roberts, 21, of Penzance, is blind in one eye and has eczema. After being unemployed for 10 months, he is now on the employment option with Cape Building Supplies, working as a stock controller: "I came on to the New Deal hoping that they would find me work," he says. "They have and it's brilliant. I hope it will lead to full-time work with the company."

Karen Jenkin, 20, of Troon near Camborne in Cornwall, has a learning disability and has never had a proper job. She is doing a training course in



Opportunity knocks: Karen Jenkin is training to do office work

office work at Cornwall College, in Pool.

"It is better than just being out of work. I hope I can get a qualification and then get into an office somewhere," she says.

Craig Harrison, 19, of Wallasey, has an artificial left leg and scoliosis. He was



Howarth to monitor options

allowed to start the gateway in January, before his six months of unemployment were up. His advisor is backing his attempt to get training in journalism.

"At first I was a bit dubious about the New Deal," he says, "but having looked into it I

think it is good. Hopefully it will allow me to do what I want rather than go from job to job."

Not everyone is so satisfied, however. Steve Davis, education, training and employment officer at the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, while broadly welcoming the New Deal, is concerned about people being forced to work.

"You could get the situation where someone is considered fit to work but may not be," he says. "If someone is failing because of their impairment, the element of compulsion should not be there."

"The four month gateway period should allow many disabled people to be better prepared. But some people with learning disabilities might need more time."

"Employment opportunities for disabled people will only be improved if the issue of discrimination is tackled."

Special help for disabled people

The Government has tried to ensure that for disabled people the gateway is not simply a revolving door, dumping them back on Jobseekers Allowance when their options finish.

Provisions are:

- Early entry for those who want it – ask at the job centre.
- Disability employment advisors can act as the personal advisor.
- Tasters during the gateway to see if an option is right.
- Trained mentors for a small group of disabled people during an option. They could be a colleague at work or a tutor at college.
- People with disabilities can restrict their working hours to a pre-agreed limit. Employers will still get the full Government subsidy as long as the pay at least equals that subsidy.
- Those who cannot do their chosen option because of their disability will be allowed to choose another.
- In the employment option help will be available from the Government's work assistance scheme Access to Work, and grants will cover additional support for the other options.
- Finally, advice and further training will be available for those who do end up in a revolving door after all and return to JSA at the end of their New Deal programme.

Alan Howarth, Equal Opportunities Minister, insists that compulsion should not be the issue.

"We are talking about opportunity," he says. "The whole concept of the New Deal is to assess the strengths and difficulties a person may have. The advisor and others help the disabled person put together a plan that is right for them."

Mr Howarth believes employers will be positive about employing disabled people rather than consigning them to the less well paid options. And he assured DN

that the Government will monitor all the options.

"If we find that any groups are doing less well under any of the options, and particularly the employment option, then we will try harder. The Employment Service has been told that we do not want to deal with bad employers. But in the interests of disabled people I would like to be informed if there are problems."

Disabled people over the age of 24 will not be missing out either. The New Deal for them begins in June. Watch this space for details.



HOLIDAYS for DISABLED PERSONS

Accessible Accommodation Guaranteed.
Flights to Tenerife, Lanzarote
Malaga, Costa Almeria, Majorca,
Algarve and Florida.
Weekend breaks - Paris,
Dublin & Amsterdam.
Holiday homes in France.

Please send a Brochure to: _____

Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd,
 16 Haweswater Ave, Astley, Lancs,
 M29 7BL. Tel: 01942 888844.

DN4/98



THE BRITAX TRAVELLER PLUS.

SPECIAL NEEDS, SATISFIED.

FOR CHILDREN FROM
 15KG TO 36KG
 (ABOUT 3 TO 11 YEARS).

FITS WIDE RANGE OF CARS,
 TAXIS, MINIBUSES AND COACHES.

THE FIRST SPECIAL
 NEEDS CHILD CAR
 SEAT APPROVED
 TO ECE R44.03.

CAN BE TRANSFERRED
 BETWEEN VEHICLES.

FITTING KITS AVAILABLE
 FOR VEHICLES WITHOUT
 SEAT-BELTS.

ADJUSTABLE HARNESS,
 FOR PROTECTION AND
 RESTRAINT.

EASY INSTALLATION
 USING CAR'S OWN LAP
 AND DIAGONAL SEAT-BELT.

SEAT EXTENSION CAN BE
 ADDED FOR LARGER CHILD.

WIDE RANGE OF ACCESSORIES INCLUDES —
 SPECIALLY SHAPED FOAM PADS AND ROLLS
 TO TAILOR THE FIT FOR INDIVIDUAL CHILD.

Britax

SAFETY. HARNESSSED

IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR PRODUCT RANGE, PLEASE CALL OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE HELPLINE ON 01264 386034
 OR WRITE TO: BRITAX EXCELSIOR LIMITED, 1 CHURCHILL WAY WEST, ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE SP10 3JW
 EXTREME HAZARD *CHILD CAR SEATS MUST NOT BE USED ON PASSENGER SEATS FITTED WITH AIRBAGS

Coaching required

In the last of *DN's* surveys, Dan Batten picks six coach companies and finds they have taken the wrong route

Questions

1. How much notice is required for a wheelchair user to travel, if any?
- 2a. Are your ticket halls accessible, i.e. low counters, induction loops etc?
- 2b. What alternative booking methods are on offer for disabled passengers?
3. Do you have ramps which allow easy access on and off your coaches for wheelchair users?
4. Can wheelchair users travel in manual wheelchairs?
5. Do you offer discounts to a helper/carer travelling with a disabled person?
6. Do your coaches have accessible toilets?
7. Can you ensure assistance is available when boarding and alighting, i.e. pushing someone to a waiting car?
8. Do you have any other services for disabled people you would like to mention?



Going up: Will all coach operators raise their standards to match?

RATCLIFF TAIL LIFT

Palmers (Newcastle) **Tel: 0191-267 7109**

1. Two or three hours.
- 2a. We are a small independent company and do not have ticket halls.
- 2b. Travel is bookable by telephone or letter.
3. Our coaches are fitted with lifts.

4. Yes, 5. No, 6. No, 7. Yes.
8. We can arrange group outings.

Western National **Tel: (01752) 661337**

1. We do not have any provision for wheelchair users.
- 2a. Bretonside Bus Station in Plymouth has the requirements

- necessary.
- 2b. Credit card bookings by telephone and ticket buying via an agency.
3. No, 4. No, 5. No, 6. No, 7. Yes.
8. We can only facilitate customers who can transfer from their wheelchair, but we will do all we can to ensure a comfortable journey.

W H Collins & Co (Dyfed, Wales)

Tel: (01437) 710337

1. Two days.
- 2a. We are a small independent company and do not have ticket halls.
- 2b. Phone bookings accepted.
3. Yes, 4. Yes, 5. No, 6. No,
7. Yes, 8. No.

Bluebird Bus and Coach (Manchester)

Tel: 0161-653 1900

1. None, just turn up and ride.
- 2a. Our low floor buses can accommodate two wheelchairs.
- 2b. Buses can be booked in advance on a private hire contract – low floor buses travel on set routes.
3. On our low floor buses.
4. Our buses are designed for use by all.
5. No, 6. No.
7. Due to the nature of the service, the driver is the only employee on board, and cannot leave his position.
8. No.

London Coaches

Tel: (01474) 356961

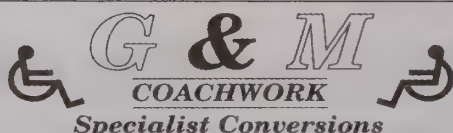
1. None. The passenger must be able to transfer from a wheelchair to a coach seat.
- 2a. Our Gravesend outlet has a wide door and staff serve from behind low level desks.
- 2b. Via the post, or season ticket holders can be put on specific coaches at passenger's request.
3. No, 4. No.
5. Not at present, but this may change due to demand.
6. No.
7. Our drivers will always assist a disabled passenger as required.
8. No

National Express

Tel: 0990-808 080

1. Seven days.
 - 2a. All new halls are designed to enable the best possible access for disabled customers.
 - 2b. Via National Express agents, tel: 0990-010 104.
- Further information can also be obtained on our website: <http://www.nationalexpress.co.uk>.
3. No, 4. No, 5. No, 6. No.
 7. Yes, at principal stations where there are representatives of National Express, and if prior notice is given.
 8. We are currently reviewing our guidelines, and working with the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee to ensure better provision.

Readers should check with the companies that their requirements can be met.



Introducing the new **Mercedes Benz Vito** wheelchair accessible people carrier. High quality with easy access and excellent visibility.

Passenger layout options include:

- 5 seats + one wheelchair • 4 seats + two wheelchairs

Features include:

- access via automatic side underfloor lift or rear ramp
- unleaded petrol or diesel engine
- automatic or manual transmission
- electric mirrors and windows
- power steering
- central locking
- air suspension



SPECIALIST WHEELCHAIR CONVERSIONS



We specialise in wheelchair accessible conversions based on most popular makes. Conversions on new or good quality used base vehicles. Also a stock of used, refurbished van conversions & mini buses. Conversions for 1 to 4 wheelchairs & 2 to 8 seats with electric lifts, ramps or lowering suspension.

For advice and information on conversion and motability, contact David Vooght, G&M Coachwork, Teign Valley, Trusham, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 0NX
Tel: 01626 853050



1ST CHOICE FOR PRICE & QUALITY



ALL VEHICLES INCLUDE WINDOWS & FULL INTERIOR TRIM PLUS WHEELCHAIR ACCESS BY FOLD OUT RAMP. ADDITIONAL REAR SEATING FITTED TO CUSTOMERS CHOICE. OPTIONAL WINCHES. POWERED LIFTS ETC

ON-THE-ROAD PRICES FROM:-

MERCEDES VITO = £15065-00 RENAULT TRAFIC = £12622-00
PEUGEOT EXPERT = £12965-00 FORD TRANSIT = £13592-00

DRIVE FROM A WHEELCHAIR CONVERSIONS FOR VITO & TRANSIT.

FOR FULL DETAILS OR A DEMONSTRATION PLEASE CONTACT:

RON OR BOB

INTERBILITY LTD UNIT 21 GUNNELS WOOD PARK
STEVENAGE HERTS SG1 2BH
TEL: 01438 747448 FAX: 01438 750319

OPEN THE DOOR TO A NEW FOUND *freedom*

Whether your needs are for a conventional rear access vehicle or the revolutionary specialised Carchair System, the Constables range of mobility conversions have been developed with accessibility in mind. A range that is diverse enough to suit all needs and budgets. (New vehicles can be VAT exempt).

FRONT ACCESS CARCHAIR

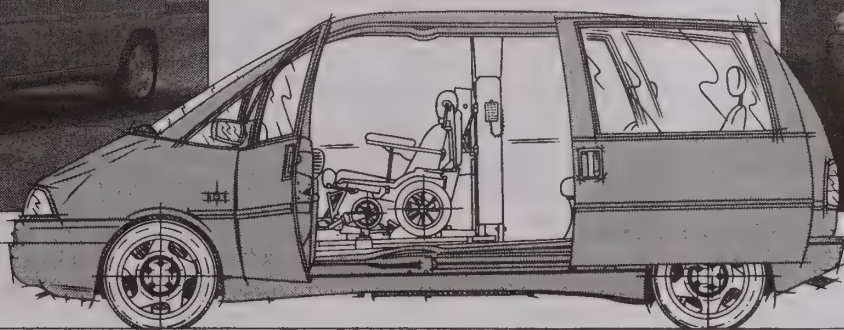
The Carchair is a wheelchair system which becomes the front passenger or driver's seat of a standard production motor car. Naturally, this eliminates the need to transfer from wheelchair to car seat and avoids the purchase of a 'special' vehicle.

Peugeot 806



The Peugeot 806 is equipped with the Carchair lifting system, complete with specially designed wheelchairs, that actually replaces the front passenger's seat.

As a complete unit the Carchair system comprises a specially designed wheelchair and easy-to-operate lift mechanism which can be fitted into a range of vehicles. The wheelchair itself is as much at home around the house as it is in the family car or out-of-doors. Quite simply, no other wheelchair is so adaptable.



Ford Escort



The Ford Escort is one of many two door vehicles in its class that adapts perfectly to the Carchair system, offering style with economy.

REAR ACCESS VEHICLES

Fiat Fiorino



The Fiat Fiorino offers excellent facilities within the lower budget range.

Ford Courier Peugeot Expert

Constable's Courier is big on space and long on comfort, offering an affordable luxury environment that makes every journey a pleasure. This model has the added advantage of automatic transmission as an optional extra.



The new Peugeot Expert has a very flexible specification, including the facility to accommodate two wheelchairs. The flat floor and dashboard-mounted gear lever allows easy movement throughout. A bright headwearing trim adds the finishing touch to this superb vehicle.



For details on Carchair and Rear Access Conversions, please contact:

CONSTABLES LTD • DEPT DN • FREEPOST (BR1032) • WESTHAM • PEVENSEY • EAST SUSSEX • BN24 5BR
TELEPHONE: (01323) 767574 • FAX: (01323) 767603



Constables
LTD

Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW
Minicom: 0171-619 7332 Fax: 0171-619 7331
E-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

DLA 'fraudulent' cases not proved to be fraud

The Benefits Agency's (BA) estimates that Disabled Living Allowance (DLA) fraud costs £499 million a year (*DN February*) must be treated with extreme caution. The figures come from a survey of 1,135 cases carried out in 1996.

The £499 million is derived from findings that 12.2 per cent of the sample consisted of cases classified as fraudulent.

Fraud was not actually proven in any of these cases.

Indeed, only 1.5 per cent of the cases were categorised as "confirmed fraud". In the other 10.7 per cent of "fraud" cases there was only a "strong suspicion" of fraud but insufficient proof. Arguably, the suspicions of visiting officers drawn from BA district offices with no prior experience of DLA are very unreliable.

The initial findings of the Benefit Integrity Project, which was set up as a result of the 1996 review, suggest that a minuscule amount of DLA

fraud exists. Of the 40,615 cases which had been examined up to the end of December 1997 only about 40 cases (ie less than one tenth of one per cent) have been referred to a fraud officer.

Fraud has not yet been proven in any of these cases.

Like previous scare stories about "dole scroungers" and "malingerers", benefit fraud headlines may serve a useful purpose in preparing the ground for benefit cuts.

Duleep Allirajah
Senior Welfare Rights Officer
Action for Blind People
London SE16

Comfy feet

I, too, wear Cosyfeet bootee slippers and require them to be fully washable because I am incontinent.

Wood Olympic of Minehead, Somerset, added protective fur collars to my sheepskin slippers – they have been most helpful.
Colin, Southampton

Healing and miracles

I am most surprised that Dr Peter May is disagreeing so publicly with the diagnosis of my doctors (*DN February*).

Surely my GP, neurologist and the three interdependent DSS doctors who examined me before granting the attendance allowance at the highest rate could not all have been wrong?

As an ordinary patient, I have to go by the opinion of those medics who saw me when I was ill, rather than on the ideas of a doctor who never met me until I was well again.

My GP can show anyone interested a report from my neurologist stating that there was nerve damage due to the viral illness I had in 1982. So, again, I have to say I am surprised that you would print Dr May's comments when they are so badly misinformed.

It is easy not to believe in a miracle, if you don't want to, but for me and my six children what happened certainly felt like one.

Suddenly being able to cook, garden, swim and climb mountains after eight years of frequent hospitalisation and constant pain was wonderful.

I just have to let the doctors argue it out. I'm too busy enjoying my active, productive life. But if what happened to me is not a miracle, then what is?
Jennifer Rees Larcombe
Hadlow, Kent

A few years ago I was verging on depression because of my condition. My GP suggested

the church elders should pray for me and it took place one Sunday after morning service.

A big problem was my attitude towards the person who had caused me to become disabled and this I had to bring to God in prayer and ask for forgiveness. The elders prayed that God's will would be done in my life and I would be healed if this was His will for me.

I was not healed and over the years my condition has continued to deteriorate and I am in a wheelchair all the time.

The difference is that God has given me the power and grace that I need for living day by day. I was not healed physically but I was healed in my attitude and spiritually.

Mary W Kirton
Strathblane, Glasgow

Although I believe that healing can happen, I am uncomfortable with claiming healing has happened and cross that when people are suffering, others can add to their problems by suggesting that this is somehow self-inflicted through lack of faith.

I have benefited from healing services as described by Lin Berwick, but it should be the person with the health problem who requests the prayers. They shouldn't be pounced on and prayed over.

People need "peace and joy" and endurance as well as (and possibly more than) healing. Practical support as well as prayer.
Mary Warburton
Southampton

Why can't taxis take scooters?

How is a three-wheel scooter driver to use a taxi when taxis only carry twin ramps for four-wheel wheelchairs?

And how is a person living alone to lift all these super scooters in and out of the back or boot of a car if a hoist cannot be used?

No one has considered the disabled driver living alone. More than once I have had to ask the police to help me.

Eunice Wilson
London SW6
DN's motoring correspondent, David Griffiths, writes:

Scooters, whether three-or four-wheeled, are not constructed so as to be safe when transported in a vehicle with the user sitting on them. They cannot be anchored down safely with conventional wheelchair tie-down systems, and the user's body weight is supported by a single pillar under the seat.

Any taxi driver attempting to carry a person on a scooter would be placing his fare in danger. Thus there are no facilities for a scooter.

The same is true for rail travel.

A one-piece ramp would be preferable to the twin channel system. A three section fold-up ramp is now on the market. Hopefully, we shall see it being adopted before long.

DN's diary

by Dan Batten

Mona-brain celled

American right winger Mona Charen's enlightened response to gay activists' declaration that "love is enough" to adopt a child: "It isn't. If it were, we'd give babies to quadriplegics and the insane". From this comment it is presumed that a) Mona has a licence to distribute babies and (b) the end of the quest for a "pure and perfect" race did not end in 1945.

Cut!

The charity Scope recently received a novel donation from a Valentine's raffle – a vasectomy as first prize. This reveals that rumours of charity fundraising being chopped are false.

Stripped

Mother of three, Dawn Saunders, recently raised £1,000 for the Musgrove Leukaemia Group – by stripping. She intends to carry on until she reaches her target of £20,000. Plans to go on tour have not taken off yet.



The New Volkswagen Caravelle by Invatravel Conversions



Various options of wheelchair access available on this super new model, including:

- underfloor electro-hydraulic lifts
- hydraulic lowering rear suspension with spring assisted alloy ramp
- manual ramps, etc

Disabled driver options for full independence.

Prices start from £16,950 on the road excluding all taxes from which disabled users are exempt.



APPROVED CONVERTER OF
THE VOLKSWAGEN
CARAVELLE RANGE

Contact Paul Cassidy or David Reid,
tel: 01704 506608, Fax: 01704 506607.
66 Knob Hall Lane, Southport PR9 9QS.

David Levey shows why a specialist school was crucial for his son, who has a rare condition called CHARGE

'Our son really has his own way of being in this world'

"Joshua is a very responsive child, but without external stimulation he does tend to withdraw from the world. He very much needs constructive input and positive attention. However, this must be given in a way that suits him.

"Joshua is easily overwhelmed by situations that are out of his control. Busy or chaotic environments, with changing faces and situations, will leave him quite upset. He needs to be allowed his own time and space to explore and discover the world around him. He can reach the same goals as other children, but he just needs to take a different route."

That was how I concluded my son's statement of educational needs. My wife Hannah and I had spent over six months collating 18 pages of "parental evidence" to ensure he went to the school of our choosing.

As Joshua's parents, and therefore the real experts, we knew that Joshua would never survive in a mainstream school at this stage of his life.

Joshua has a rare condition known as CHARGE, which only affects a small number of children in this country. The name is made up from the initial letters of the condition's most common features. "C" stands for coloboma (or eye defects), "H" for heart defects, "A" for choanal atresia (nasal blockage), "R" for retardation of growth, "G" for genitalia - they are small and undescended - and "E" for ear anomalies.

So we looked very closely at specialist schools. The problem was that we lived in the London Borough of Newham which has a policy of inclusive education. That may sound fine in theory, but it is totally inappropriate for Joshua.

We came to recognise that, despite all his problems, Joshua's main educational difficulty was his ears. He is totally deaf. With this in mind we chose Frank Barnes Primary School for Deaf Children in Camden, even though it had limited experience of multi-sensory problems.

The school was perfect for Joshua because of the small classrooms, high staff to pupil ratios, and bilingualism with British sign language. This would never be possible in mainstream schooling. In any case, the communicators and intervenors for deaf children



A different route: Hannah Levey helps Joshua draw what he sees

they have in mainstream schools fell short of what Joshua needed to make his way in the national curriculum.

So we finally won the battle against dogma and accounting.

But how sad it is that as parents of a severely disabled child we should have been put through such a stressful time. It seems that all the trauma and heartache of having to cope with caring for someone like Joshua counts for nothing in the eyes of the officials.

Looking back, the bitterest blow for me came when I found out that Joshua's eyes were severely damaged.

I will never forget asking the eye specialist if Joshua would ever be able to read. "No," he said, in a tone which implied I had asked a really stupid question.

Actually, despite being blind in one eye, and having limited peripheral vision and astigmatism in the other, Joshua knows the alphabet and can distinguish letters down to a reasonable size. So I am confident that one day he will be able to read.

In fact, Joshua does many things that the specialists said he would never be able to do. Of course, it has not been easy

and we know there is still a very tough road ahead. But he is a model example of the benefits of early intervention.

The main source of help for us bringing up Joshua came from Sense, the charity for the deaf and blind. But Joshua was still fortunate to be diagnosed early. Some children are not diagnosed for years, and now adults are being discovered who were labelled "no known cause" before.

Aside from these physical problems, I think it is probably Joshua's challenging behaviour which causes the most distress. He really has his own way of being in this world, hence our description of him in our educational assessment.

But his continued improvement has vindicated us completely, in particular in our choice of school but also more generally in our approach to his whole upbringing.

Seeing Joshua aged just four-and-a-half give an outstanding performance in the school play has convinced me that fighting for his individual rights and needs will always be worth the effort.

Sense has a leaflet all about CHARGE. Tel: 0171 272 7774.



A FIRST FOR BRITAIN!

50 stones down to 5 stones carrying capacity.
THE ALDERSLEY EXCEL

Fully tested
at Blackpool
Wheelchair
Evaluation
Centre.



EXCEL SUPREME
Capable of carrying up
to 50 stones.

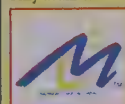
EXCEL SENIOR
Catering for up to 40
stones.

EXCEL MINI
Manoeuvrable and
compact, 10-25 stones.

EXCEL TREKKA
Juniors and the smaller
adult, up to 10 stones.

**ALL CHAIRS HAVE SUSPENSION FOR COMFORT AND CAN
BE CUSTOMISED TO SUIT THE INDIVIDUAL CLIENT.**

Only available direct from:



ALDERSLEY BATTERY
CHAIRS LIMITED
24-26 Old Meeting Road,
Coseley, West Midlands WV14 8HB

For further details and/or free assessment
Tel: 0121 520 6942
Fax: 0121 522 4833



Please send details of Excel Range DN4/98

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

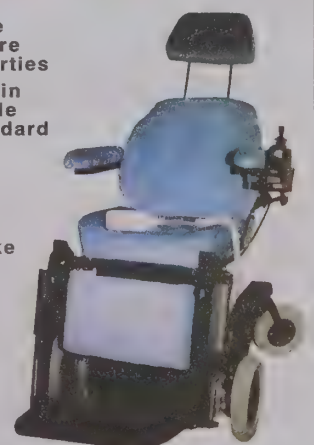
Tel.....

The weight of the person interested is.....stones or.....kgs

DANAID
COMFORT WHEELCHAIR

DANAID COMFORT WHEELCHAIR

- Exceptional posture support and pressure sore relieving properties
- Reclining back, tilt in space and adjustable lumbar support standard
- Superb comfort and high quality finish
- Impressive array of optional and bespoke equipment
- Suitable from 8-80 years of age
- No tools necessary for everyday adjustments
- A personal, highly supportive service



**THE COMFORT WHEELCHAIR PROVIDES
FIRST CLASS ELEGANT DESIGN. AVAILABLE
AS A MANUAL OR POWERED DRIVE CHAIR,
EASY TO OPERATE AND ADJUSTABLE TO
MEET YOUR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.**

COMFORT
AIDS

24-26
Glasshouse
Street
Nottingham
NG1 3LW

Tel: 0115 911 0322

TO ARRANGE A HOME DEMONSTRATION OR FOR A BROCHURE PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOX

DEMONSTRATION ☐ BROCHURE ☐

Name:..... DN4/98

Address:.....

Telephone:.....



Breathable waterproof, £110, by Wearable



Teal green textured V-neck, £24.99, from Next Directory

What's in *DN* next month?



■ **FLOWER POWERS**
An eight page supplement on making the most of your garden

■ **BANGED UP FOR REAL**
What it's like being disabled and at Her Majesty's pleasure

■ **CANTERBURY TALES**
A City Focus on England's most important cathedral city

■ **NEW LABOUR ONE YEAR ON**
What the new government has done for people with disabilities.

Plus the best news, views, jobs and offers. On sale 25 April.

Shopping by post —

Mail order clothes catalogues have not always suited disabled people well. But Peter Baber finds this could be changing

Ordering clothes by mail order should be the ideal solution for anyone in a wheelchair — and many more who don't feel up to the hustle of the high street.

Instead of struggling through swing doors into the shopping centre, negotiating the inevitable step which every shop entrance seems to have, and then snaking your way through the clattering racks of clothes, you have peace. Your own time. And just one little phone call to get your clothes.

Well, that's the theory. In fact, many disabled people *DN* spoke to have just as much difficulty with catalogues as they have on the high street. The two people we chose to try to convert had bad tales to tell.

Rachel Wilson, a 29-year-old mother and disability awareness trainer, gets plenty of mail order catalogues through her door but rarely uses them because they do not have enough information.

As a wheelchair user, she needs to make sure the zips on any trousers she buys are at the front, and not the side. But such details are seldom spelled out in a catalogue, and the picture does not always make things clear. "With all the time we spend struggling to get in or round the back," she says, "it doesn't seem worth going to the trouble of ordering."

She is also concerned about how hard it would be to return unsuitable garments. "The problem is you are effectively shopping blind," she says.

Sinclair Thomas, a member of the Great Britain wheelchair basketball squad, gets around this problem by ordering the same item in several different sizes. But then he has to: as an athlete he has a 40 inch chest, but he is five foot tall, and has a 28 inch waist.

So although he has used mail order more often than Rachel, he has on occasion had to go through the kids' section to find a pair of trousers which might fit him. And he is put off by those brochures which only set out sizes in terms of S, M, L, and XL. "That doesn't mean a lot to me," he says.

Not a great deal of support for home shopping then. But surprisingly, both Rachel and Sinclair were impressed with the clothes we helped them choose this time around.

The Next Directory in particular proved popular. Sinclair often shops at Next shops, but was pleased to find clothes in



All-weather suit, £125 excluding VAT, from Wearable

the directory which were exclusive to it — and to find a wide range of sizes. His black jeans, he said, were some of the best fitting he had ever tried. The prices were good too.

Rachel was surprised to find that the description of the trousers she liked did in fact include details of where the zip was. But the linen blue shirt she liked she had to admit would probably not last the rigours of life in a wheelchair.

Land's End is an American company which is probably the only mainstream mail order firm to feature disabled people as models. The firm does its photo shoots in America, however, and these American mod-



Black flying jacket, £49, from Wearable

els have not featured much in the British version of the catalogue yet. But a spokesman claims this is only because the clothes they model have not proved popular in the British market at the moment.

Rachel was nonetheless impressed with the twill trousers she ordered. With an elasticated waist they were easy to pull on and can be ordered with an unfinished hem for better fitting.

"They're soft," she says, "which is good if you have to sit down all the time."

Sinclair, when he's not playing basketball, is an avid night-clubber, and likes designer clothing. But designer clothing shops he finds are usually even worse than mainstream shops for poor access. So he was pleased to order a designer track suit through the pages of Look Again, a large catalogue he has used before. As he was able to order a small bottom with a large top, there was less of a fitting problem too.

So would all this mean the two of them would be using mail order more in future? Perhaps. Sinclair certainly intends to. But Rachel is still a little wary, largely because of the palaver of returning unwanted clothes.

Nevertheless, the possibilities of what mail order has to offer clearly impressed them both.

Can it deliver?

Clothes made just for you

There are mail order companies which specialise in selling clothes for people in wheelchairs. Such clothes can have the advantage of being free too. Some of these catalogues did impress our models. Rachel found when she looked at one that full of capes which cocoon people and wheelchair together. "This thing just puts people our age," she said. "It reinforces assumption that we need to be protected." One company, however, met with royal. Wearable, a firm which used to supply clothes for outdoor clothing shops, has now branched out to make clothes for wheelchair users and other disabled people. Although its catalogue uses sizes, the company does offer a made to measure service for the same price as standard clothes.

Rachel and Sinclair both found the clothes well-made and comfortable. But in the end Sinclair thought his weather suit was expensive. Rachel found her waterproof took time putting on, as it extends (with the help of a slit at the back) to the knees. So while it would be perfect for an expedition, it was not so good for popping out. "But they've got good ideas," she said, "and I see where they are coming from."



by top, £21.99, and jeans, £24.99, from Next Directory



rt sleeved mock collar top, £17.50, trousers, £34.50, from Land's End

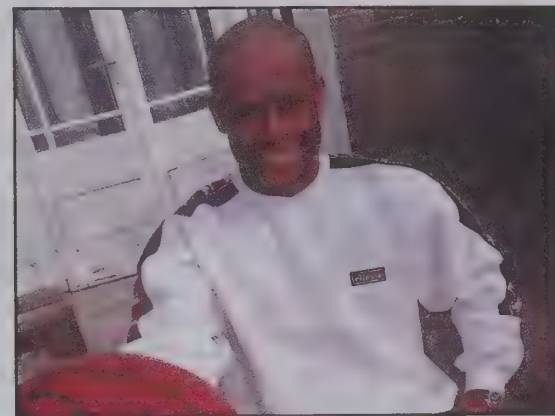
Contact numbers

Next Directory:
0345-100 500
Land's End: 0800-220 106
(minicom: 0800-224 106)
Look Again: 0345-444 333
Wearable: 0141-774 9000

PICTURES BY JAMIE FACER



Semi-fitted linen shirt, £34.99, and steel blue slim leg trousers £39.99, from Next Directory



Taped sweatshirt, £49.99, and matching pants, £29.99, by Ellesse from Look Again

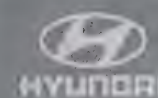
It's good news! The Hyundai Accent Coupé 1.3i 3-door now has an automatic gearbox and power-assisted steering option.

As if this isn't enough, it's also available on contract hire without an advance payment*.

Also available is a 5-door LSi version with automatic transmission and power-assisted steering, but an advance payment is required.

With 3 years' Hyundai RAC assistance, 3 years' unlimited mileage warranty and a full 6 years' anti-perforation warranty, overall peace of mind is assured.

For further details of our 'Motability' scheme and full information on the exciting Hyundai range of coupés, hatchbacks, saloons and estates, call free on 0800 981 981.



**Nothing up front.
Except power assisted steering
and automatic transmission.**



Hyundai Car (UK) Ltd., St John's Place, Easton Street, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 1NL.

Accent Coupé 1.3i (manual) at £7,599 and Accent Coupé 1.3i (automatic) at £8,799, both on the road including 12 months Road Fund Licence. Optional metallic paint shown available at extra cost. *Subject to status. Written details on request.

*This is the trademark of Motability: Registered Charity No.299745 **Motability**

Film

Michael Turner

Sick



Sick – the life and death of Bob Flanagan, super-masochist is defiantly not a film for the faint-hearted.

It provokes a gut reaction – almost literally – of both disgust and repulsion by its graphic depiction of sado-masochism linked to disability.

This documentary film tells Flanagan's life story of growing up with cystic fibrosis (cf), discovering masochism, and combining the two in his visual and performance art. The film follows him through to his death in his early 40s.

Regardless of how you feel about Flanagan's sexuality, linking his enjoyment of pain to his experiences of pain as a person with cf is very worrying, especially when he meets a young woman with cf, who, it is suggested, has similar interests to himself.

It is obviously senseless to argue with Flanagan's own self-analysis, but the connection between cf and any other disability which causes pain is certainly not an automatic one – not everybody who experiences chronic pain becomes a masochist.

While Flanagan's interest in masochism may have been prompted by his cf, the connection between the two is ultimately superficial. Flanagan and the director of the documentary, Kirby Dick, should have given this a bit more thought.

Despite the film's failure here, it is very successful overall in its

portrayal of Flanagan. The emphasis on his S&M activities does make this a very difficult film to watch, but it is Flanagan's basic humanity and love of life that comes across most strongly in the end.

The play on words in the title – sick referring to his cf and to how some people would perceive his sexuality – sums up this celebration of a man who was "different".

It may be difficult for many of us to accept Flanagan's masochism, but *Sick* should remind us that when we advocate accepting difference, we are talking about many and varied differences.



S&M man: Bob Flanagan

Look out for

Mind the ..gap, an independent performing arts company working with learning disabled actors, is on tour all over the country with *The Big Picture* (a quarrel with a moral) until 28 May. Tel: (01274) 544683.

You might just catch Jigsaw Theatre Company's *Ducks in Paradise* at the High School, Aylesbury on 30 March. This is a disabled actors' company. Open workshops for newcomers are in May. Tel: (01296) 484157.



Garry Robson with signers Vikki Gee Dare and Rob Chalk

Two

You need two very flexible actors to make the most of Jim Cartwright's play, *Two*. Graeae's new production has that and more.

The action takes place one evening in a pub run by the central characters (Caroline Parker and Garry Robson). The couple serve drinks and laugh with the punters as they swop biting insults with each other.

Parker and Robson also play the punters, mostly couples. In short, sharp scenes they portray relationships stuck in often disturbing patterns of behaviour. The play's climax comes when the pub doors are shut for the night and we watch the landlord and landlady struggle to break through the bitterness that has built up between them over the years.

The play is often very funny, sometimes sad, and occasionally shocking. A scene between an abusive man and his girlfriend held the audience in absolute

silence as we waited to see if she could break away.

It was good to see Jenny Sealy, Graeae's new artistic director, carry on the tradition of integrating sign language interpreters into the action of the play. The man and woman, dressed exactly the same as the actors, often heightened the comedy or intensity of a scene.

The play's central message, that we must confront our ghosts in order to move on, could have been told in a more original way. The writing, strong and sharp most of the time, lets us down in the final scene, when it becomes clichéd.

In spite of this, powerful performances and a sharp sense of timing keep the tension mounting. We are drawn into the couple's struggle and want them to reach a resolution. This is a strong production of a play with a familiar theme. Its energy and imagination make it one not to be missed.

Rachel Vaughan
Tour details: tel: 0171-267 1959

Television

Chris Davies



Mainstream current affairs programmes rarely touch current disability issues and so perhaps

Panorama

(9 Feb BBC1) should not be criticised too heavily for its investigation into the benefits dispute with the Government.

It was rather evident, though, that the reporter had little understanding of the issues and appeared to favour the arguments against disabled people.

He will not be the only person not to make friends amongst the disability movement. Anne Begg, our first wheelchair using MP, was of the opinion that not all of us need benefits, so why should we always get them? I am not sure that I disagree completely with her, but I am not an MP with her profile.

When *Panorama* looked at the consultation being carried out by the task force aimed at improving the Disability Discrimination Act, it showed disabled people acting positively in public life – a whole new angle.

From The Edge has returned. The first programme (24 Feb BBC2) profiled two able-bodied men who fantasise about being disabled to the extent that one pretends to be an amputee and the other wears a caliper. The programme spared its criticisms, even when confronting the two men with two people genuinely disabled with those impairments.

This came just after a double-length episode of the drama *Jonathan Creek* (22 Feb BBC1) in which a character won world-wide fame as a blind jazz musician. It turned out he only pretended to be blind to maintain credibility in the music world. Until *From The Edge*, I would have scoffed that he could not really exist, but you never know, do you?

Pleasure Beach is another fly-on-the-wall documentary, so popular these days. Set in Blackpool, this episode (2 March BBC1) showed how the staff told a group of disabled people attempting to go on a ride to come back at a quieter time. They held a demo.

As the group had been given this advice a year ago, I wonder why they did not take it. I am not sure that the demo was genuinely by disabled people. We never heard a disabled person speak; no expression, no enthusiasm was shown by disabled demonstrators. It seemed the decisions were made by non-disabled people.

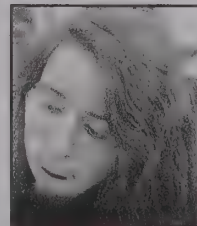
Marc Pantling

Marc Pantling was a student at the Edinburgh College of Art for only

a few weeks: he had muscular dystrophy and died in November.

His work, on show last month, is inspiring. He made his marks on paper or in clay with enormous delicacy and economy. This delicacy moves the viewer closer to the works, far from the sensationalist images often found in today's galleries and media images. His work does not force us to see, but invites us in to slowly explore his world.

Anne Cunningham

CHEAPER MOTOR INSURANCE
FOR DISABLED DRIVERS

COMPETITIVE PREMIUMS WITH ADDED VALUE:

- ◆ 24 Hour Accident and Medical helplines ◆
- ◆ Courtesy car / Lynx controls / Cash ◆

For a 'paper free' quotation call
Freephone 0800 854813 Minicom 0345 660744

MOBILITY PLUS
FROM QUEEN ELIZABETH'S FOUNDATION
FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

See
The New
Brotherwood
Citroën
Multispace

At Disability Scotland
Exhibition
- don't miss it!

Berlingo

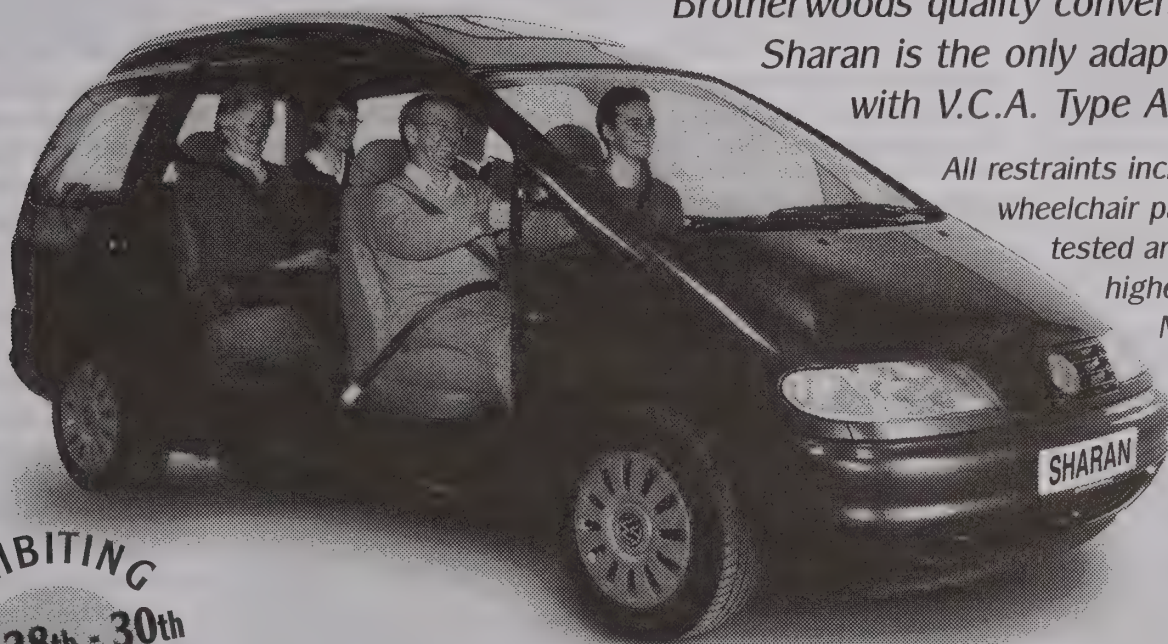


A discreet conversion whatever your lifestyle

*- our vehicles will carry almost any size of wheelchair
and passenger as one of the family.*

Brotherwoods quality conversion of the Volkswagen
Sharan is the only adapted vehicle in the U.K.
with V.C.A. Type Approval No. LC326/A/027.

All restraints including those for the
wheelchair passenger, have been
tested and approved to the
highest European
M1 standard.



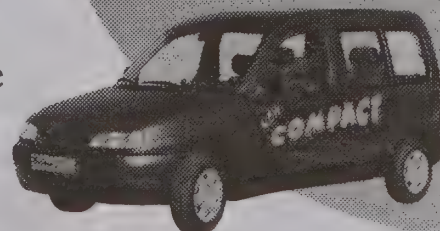
EXHIBITING
May 28th - 30th
Disability Scotland
Royal Highland Centre
Ingliston,
EDINBURGH

Look no further than a Brotherwood Conversion

New cars supplied fully converted • Comprehensive range of refurbished
second hand vehicles • Customer after sales support and buy-back service
• Short & long term Hire or Contract Lease

Ask for details on our full range of vehicles

Citroën
Ford
Seat
Nissan
Volkswagen



Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 6QP
Telephone: 01935 872603 • Fax: 01935 872853



BROTHERWOOD
AUTOMOBILITY LIMITED

Building a future

Three disabled people tell Lisa Hitchen about the pitfalls and pleasures of making their homes work for them

The announcement that Part M of the housing regulations has been extended to all new homes is a step in the right direction, but it won't make existing housing accessible.

In England, we spent £351 million on housing adaptations in 1994, 60 per cent of which was public money.

How to address individual need as well as to reduce financial costs is a major issue and one that is becoming short-sighted to ignore given a rising elderly population and the growing costs of house improvements.

One organisation that is trying to meet this problem is the housing group, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. It has developed 500 "Lifetime" houses which incorporate 16 design standards including a downstairs toilet, a level area outside the front door, turning circles for wheelchairs on the ground floor and wider doorways.

Occupational therapist and



Self build: David Watson outside one of the five accessible homes at Marks Tey which he helped to build for his family and friends

trainer for the Centre for Accessible Environments, Amanda Ward, can see their advantages: "A major problem in most homes is their size – bathroom access and narrow corridors make turning in a wheelchair very difficult and just getting into properties can be hard."

So what is the starting point if you need to make changes to your home? Depending on income and need you may be able to get help from social services. An occupational therapist and a grant assessor will determine what adaptations you might want and whether you are entitled to

a disabled facilities grant.

If help is not forthcoming and it is difficult to stay in the same house without adaptations, moving might be the best option.

Ann Mayes (left) and her husband, Michael were given the opportunity to design and build their fully accessible new home. In 1993, the couple were one of five families involved in a pioneering home building project set up in Marks Tey in Essex. The



scheme was the first self-build project for people with disabilities in the UK. The criteria was that all five purpose built homes must be constructed at a total cost of £250,000.

Ann, who has multiple sclerosis, told DN: "It was a wonderful idea in theory with each home being built by the families themselves. Every family had to have a person with a physical disability and a non-disabled person prepared to spend 21 hours a week on the building.

"Volunteers would come forward and build the homes and get a national vocational qualification. When no volunteers turned up, the problems began. It meant our partners had to do all the work and it took two and a half years instead of 15 months."

Other setbacks included a lack of communication between the different parties involved, little budgeting for expensive disability equipment and no contingency plans for when things went wrong.

On the plus side, all homes were completed by the summer of 1996 and the residents have moved in. They all pay a nominal rent to landlords, Chisel Housing Association, and have the satisfaction of knowing they did most of the

work themselves. Ann says: "I have a beautiful home designed just for me, but if anybody wanted to do this again there are a lot of things others could learn from our experiences."

Charities can also provide support for people who want to move to more appropriate accommodation.

Alan Berry, who has cerebral palsy, moved from a residential centre to a house shared with two others and finally to his own home with the help of 1st Key, a community based service run by Scope which helps people with cp to live an independent life in Worcester and Tenbury Wells.

Scope staff found an empty one bedroom property owned



Alan Berry by the new front door of his flat

by Harden Housing Association. With the help of the Association, the Housing Corporation, the local authority and Scope, money was raised to make it wheelchair accessible.

But before that another problem had to be overcome. Gill Read, community services manager for 1st Key, explains: "Alan would require 24 hour support services with a team of eight staff helping to meet his care needs. This is expensive and it took a lot to convince the local authority that he would be happy living alone. Alan had an independent advocate who helped persuade the council."

In May last year, Alan's new home was ready and he moved in. He told DN: "I like the new place. I can get around a lot better as it is totally designed for me. I prefer it to living with others. I am in more control of what goes on."



The window of Alan's flat is converted into a door

The Volker 3010S Nursing Bed

- a new Nursing bed that is stylishly functional and comfortable. Yet, in the Volker tradition, it is a desirable piece of furniture that



deceptively hides the features so necessary for Care in the Home.

The 3010 follows the style of the successful 2080, with its pleasing home-like appearance and real wood trimmings. Telescopic legs provide a stable platform, especially when rising to its treatment height.

When in its lowest position, a special release button allows the wheels to emerge for movement only when required.

The two part safety side rails were designed with independence in mind. Many users require the peace of mind that side rails bring, and yet are able to exit the bed without the help of another.

- Stylish Home-like appearance.
- Comfortable-multi-positions at the touch of a button.
- Special compensating device to reduce compression of stomach on sitting up.
- Height adjustable to help occupant and carer.
- Hygienic.
- Discreet integrated safety side rails.
- Stable.
- Strong.
- Optional accessory mounting points.
- Reliable.
- Easy to move.



BaKare
ADJUSTABLE BEDS

Unit 17, Bell Park, Bell Close, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 4JH
Tel: 01752 34 22 22 Fax: 01752 34 11 90

"Now Shopping is a Pleasure!"



"I chose a BRUNO scooter."

My scooter means I'm independent and that's important to me. That's why I chose the quality of a BRUNO scooter. Phone today for a free brochure. There's no pressure to buy and no obligation.

- 3 and 4 wheel models available
- Try before you buy
- From as little as £17 per week
- 2 Year Guarantee - and FREE AA COVER

CALL FREE 0800 416855 AVAILABLE ON Notability

Or complete the coupon and return to BRUNO MOBILITY EUROPE, FREEPOST MID17629, COVENTRY RD., LUTTERWORTH LE17 4BR.

Name: _____ DN4/98

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

BRUNO

Home is what you make it

Lin Berwick reports

Almost a year ago my husband Ralph, who is also my carer, was diagnosed as having Parkinson's Disease. As a blind wheelchair user, I had thought about my future care needs, but now we needed to consider both of us.

We had a property at Hornchurch in Essex that was not very big. It would have taken £20,000 to convert the loft space into a carer's room and this would have meant losing a downstairs bedroom for the stairs.

Whilst we were courting, we had spent many happy hours in Suffolk so this is where we began looking. We had visited Sudbury many times. The town is hilly but manageable. What were the advantages? Friendly



The counter balance rail in Lin's wardrobe

people, a large church (a good place to make new friends) and a selection of shops and restaurants.

We talked to all the estate agents, being very specific about our requirements. Our friend is a local builder so he looked out for places with land as well as property that could be extended. Eventually a bungalow sitting on a double plot was found – plenty of space to build.

I had been saving for my care needs and Ralph had a lump sum from retirement. But no matter how much we saved, it would not be enough to meet the high cost of 24 hour care. No help is given by social services unless your savings are below £8,000 and it is no good spiriting away the surplus to your family because that is deemed irresponsible reversal of funds and social services can claim the money back. However, you are allowed to spend the money on adapting your property.

So we began building an extension with a bedroom for a carer, an extra toilet and a counselling-cum-sitting room.



Lin and Ralph with their new raised garden, patio and extension

This meant altering the windows in the office, widening all doorways to take wheelchairs and knocking down the separate toilet and bathroom to make our bedroom and bathroom ensuite.

We also had to totally refit both bedroom and bathroom with a Clos-O-Mat toilet (which washes and dries) and a Parker Freedom bath with three speed spa (a godsend for painful joints).

When we moved in, the property had oil central heating. After a power failure we changed to gas central heating so that we could fit a gas fire with battery ignition. This meant we could heat one room independently should there be another power cut.

The Valor Visage has a coal fire effect with a control panel which is easy to reach if you are

a wheelchair user.

Hammond Furniture built the bedroom units. The Maple range wardrobes can be fitted with a counter balance rail to allow easy access to your clothes from a wheelchair.

We still have the kitchen to renovate and equip. But while this is being done, I can sit on my newly designed patio and enjoy the fragrance from my raised garden with plants selected for their texture and fragrance by the Wyevale Garden Centre in Sudbury.

The work has taken eight months and I am now below that magical figure of £8,000. By the time we have completed the work, Ralph will be in the same position, but we will have a property designed for care.

The Lin Berwick Trust holiday cottage in East Harling is available to rent, tel (01787) 372 852.

How to build on success

Home Improvement Agencies work with housing associations to offer practical help to older or disabled people who need to make adaptations to their homes. Call the national coordinating body, Care and Repair, tel: 0115-979 9091 (England), 0141-221 9879 (Scotland), (01222) 576 286 (Wales) or the Fold Housing Trust in Northern Ireland (01232) 428314.

The Centre for Accessible Environments can provide information on legislation and adaptations. It also runs the Architectural Advisory Service, a database of architects and builders who have experience of designing for disabled people, tel: 0171-357 8182.

The Royal Institute of British Architects can put you in touch with architects not on the CAE list, tel: 0171-580 5533 (ext 3700). Disabled Persons' Housing Services will point you towards one of seven DPHS offices in Lothian, Walbrook in Derby, Papworth in Cambridge, Hammersmith and Fulham, Sheffield, Dorset and Hampshire for advice on housing, tel: (01937) 588580.

Disabled Living Centres (there are 37 in the UK) offer you the chance to look at adaptations and try out equipment, tel: 0870-603 9177 or minicom 0870-6036176.

The following grants for repair, renovation or adaptation may be available: renovation grants; home repair assistance grants; "common parts" (of shared buildings) grants; houses in multiple occupation grants; home energy efficiency scheme grants; community care grants; mandatory and discretionary disabled facilities grants.

Contact social services, your local housing department or one of the above organisations for more details. You could also ask your housing department if it has a housing advice centre.



Lin's house before the improvements



UNIVERSAL MOBILITY LTD

SUPERIOR VEHICLE CONVERSIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
WISHING TO TRAVEL IN THEIR OWN WHEELCHAIRS. MOST AVAILABLE ON MOTABILITY.

CALL OUR SALES HOTLINE NOW ON (Charged
0 3 4 5 4 1 3 3 4 8 at local
rate)

For Free Information Pack and Details of this month's Special Offers

INTRODUCING FIVE OF OUR TOP SELLING VEHICLES

**DAIHATSU HIJET
- FREEDOM**
Extremely popular small M.P.V. Cost effective, but can still carry one wheelchair passenger and four able-bodied passengers.



VW CARAVELLE
Ultimate flexibility best describes this multi purpose vehicle. A favourite buy for both individuals and organisations requiring a choice of seating options.



FIAT FIORINO
The cornerstone of the Universal stable built to our industries leading specification, this vehicle is price sensitive and our best seller year on year.



VAUXHALL COMBO
Offers increased choice for our customer. Super all round vision for the wheelchair passenger. Available in a number of base vehicle options.



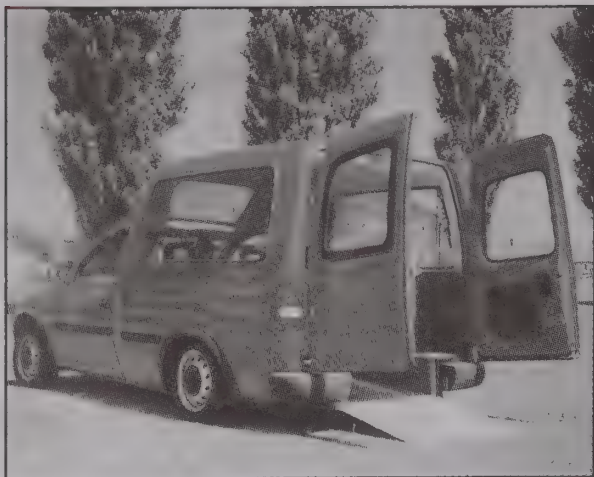
FORD COURIER
Superb looking vehicle, well received by our customers carries 1 wheelchair passenger and 4 able-bodied passengers. Available with automatic gearbox.



Motability
Registered Charity No 299745



NO NONSENSE VEHICLE CONVERSIONS



Gowring's Chairman Corsa works for most people



Gruau Renault Espace is classy, pricey and fast



Universal Daihatsu Freedom doesn't shriek disability

DN's motoring correspondent David Griffiths tests rear-entry vehicles

For the disabled wheelchair user who finds transfer difficult, painful or perhaps virtually impossible and chooses not to drive, there is now a considerable choice of hardware, from basic mini-vans to sophisticated people carriers. Over a dozen UK companies offer conversions on as many different bases over a range of prices.

To get some ideas of what you get for your money, I placed my life in the hands of a range of "chauffeurs" and rode the tarmac trail. As always, we used a standard route selected for bad surfaces, contrasting motoring conditions and inclines.

Universal Daihatsu Freedom
Cheapest at £8,499, the Universal Daihatsu – Freedom

uses the Hi-Jet MPV. Rear access is via a lightweight, fold-down ramp that felt safe and firm as I manoeuvred my powerchair in.

How you cram six people inside in comfort, I cannot imagine. From outside, it is difficult to believe you could get a wheelchair in, let alone two passengers and the driver. But it can be done. Mind you, headroom is limited, making it more suitable for a disabled child, although people with brittle bones or growth-limiting conditions would have no problems. My head was well clear of the roof, but I could open the sunroof unaided and open both side windows too.

Wheelchair anchorage is by four-point tie-down with winch loading if necessary. My

wheelchair remained stable whilst the seat belt provided me with adequate, if basic, restraint. The twin sunroofs and plenty of side glass give a light, airy feel. All-round vision was excellent.

The diminutive 3-cylinder power unit was eager to start and, disposing of a large speed-hump with a derisory leap, we took to the road.

Although the roughest surfaces did prove a might hard at times, overall ride was considerably better than I expected. In spite of having less than 1,000cc of power, the Daihatsu tackled a 1-in-7 gradient in third without stress and was amazingly brisk when called upon to merge into fast traffic.

All out, it could just manage 70mph, at which things sounded

pretty hectic, but at 60-65mph on good surfaces it was surprisingly comfortable and relatively quiet. Stability in a cross-wind could have been better.

It has a high standard of paintwork and trimming inside and out and gives little evidence that it is devoted to disability. Other plus points are an excellent warranty (three years engine and transmission, six years bodywork) and fuel consumption of 50mpg or more.

Gowrings Chairman Corsa

Following the traditional "pope-mobile" approach, Gowring's Chairman Corsa is neither as attractive nor as anonymous as the Daihatsu or the Espace. But it can cater for all ages, shapes and sizes, with its 54in door entry height, and it occupies a minimum space for parking.

Access is via lowered suspension, so the gradients are less acute, safer and give greater confidence.

The inside is spacious, though disappointingly grey and bare, with the user centrally placed, out of reach of everything – even, for me, the interior light.

Lateral vision through large, deep windows was excellent, but the forward view will depend on your eye level. For me it was not good.

There are two engines, 1.4 petrol or 1.7 diesel. Having ridden in both, I can vouch that apart from a different rhythm there is little difference in noise and both perform equally well.

Out on the road really bad surfaces showed the Corsa to be a little too lively, while there was some body roll on adverse cambers. Bumps and undulations were no problem, and generally my journey proceeded apace, unruffled and with an air of security. It was also commendably rattle-free and offers a car-like ambience. Conversation between driver and rear passenger was quite possible even at speed.

The Corsa carries three passengers, driver and

wheelchair occupant and still has more than enough room for shopping. The external dimensions belie its carrying capacity.

At £17,000, I think it is overpriced. Granted it is versatile and has low running costs (45mpg or so with ease), but the standard Vauxhall warranty is just one year and it still stands out as something which could belong to a disabled person.

Gruau Renault Espace

At £26,000, the Gruau ("grau", a leading French conversion company) Renault Espace is pricey and classy.

The Espace is the people carrier that started it all. Glass fibre ensures long body life and the resale value of standard models has always been good.

Like most MPVs, considerable surgery has been necessary to accommodate a wheelchair. As a result, you sit in a deep "well" with a four-point tie-down – which gave me a greater feeling of security and safety than any other I have tried – while, ahead, five fellow travellers sit in comfort. For extra forward vision, the rear centre seat can be folded down when not in use. The only drawback is that the wheelchair user is a long way back, which makes conversation difficult.

Access is easy with lowering suspension and an ultra-thin ramp.

The 2.2 diesel engine is amazingly smooth and quite unbelievably fast. The suspension soaks up just about everything you can throw at it, including a "sleeping policeman" taken at three times the recommended speed.

Inside, all is luxury and creature comfort.

The diesel manual can return 40mpg and has an identical power output to the petrol, automatic version.

Externally, it looks no different from a standard vehicle except for the word Gruau.

Daihatsu Freedom, Universal Mobility, tel: 0345-413 348. Chairman Corsa, Gowrings Mobility, tel: 0800-220 878. Gruau Espace, Papworth VBB, tel: (01480) 831371.

Driving a point home.....

February's edition of Disability Now reported on safety aspects of hand controls and referred to the TechMobility safety conscious system. Many readers have had difficulty tracking down TechMobility so the following gives further details

TechMobility



TechMobility system on a Ford Fiesta

- * No exposed rods or linkages around knees and legs
- * Steering column will still collapse in accident
- * Smooth brake and light throttle control
- * Steering column can still be adjusted (if available)
- * Blends in with the look of the car

At the moment TechMobility hand controls are only available as standard for all Ford cars. Other models are being developed. TechMobility also manufacture a range of wheelchair hoists which are simple to operate and inexpensive.

Their new TECHMO-CLUTCH automatic clutch system is about half the price of old systems and is suitable for all cars and light vans and a joy to drive.

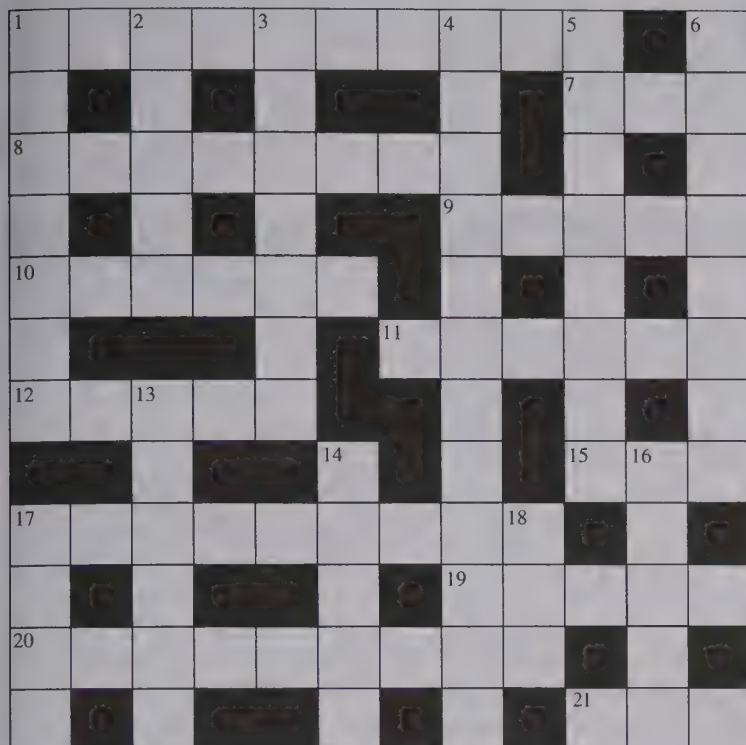
☎ 01206-210440 ☎

TECHMOBILITY, SANSOMS HOUSE, WILSONS LANE, MARKS TEY, ESSEX CO6 1ES.

DN's crossword

Answers on page 29

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

1. Limb extension (10)
7. Limb or weapon (3)
8. Able to walk (8)
9. Bring upon yourself (5)
10. Horn with branches (6)
11. Type of workplace (6)
12. Lifting device (5)
15. Expression of denial (3)
17. Hurt a cape (anag)
19. Type of Greek column (5)
20. Radio gnat (anag)
21. Lowest cardinal number (3)

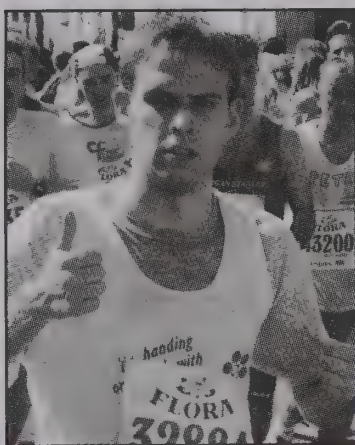
DOWN

1. Ancient Egyptian ruler (7)
2. Circular motion (5)
3. Let salt (anag)
4. Rolling stones song (12)
5. Show of official approval – or disapproval (8)
6. Greet men (anag)
13. (Evidence of) attack (6)
14. Colour, or absence of colour (5)
16. Constellation of stars (5)
17. Young male attendant (4)
18. An enormously long time (3)

Create a caption

What might be going through the mind of our Production Editor as he realises he has 15 miles of the marathon to run?

Send your ideas to DN, address on page 3, keeping expletives to a minimum, and you might win £20.



Your stars

ARIES (21 Mar-20 Apr)

★ The Sun, Mars and Mercury all pass through your sign this month. Unfortunately Saturn is also busy at work in Aries. This is likely to restrict your energy levels and communication at the beginning of the month and your sense of direction around the 13th. Allow yourself to put the brakes on when necessary.

TAURUS (21 Apr-21 May)

★ Once you are over the full moon in Taurus on the 11th, Mars enters your sign on the 14th and the Sun on the 21st. This could give you a well deserved lift in desire and energy around mid-month, helping you get some perspective on problems that might only be mole hills rather than mountains after all.

GEMINI (22 May-22 June)

★ Romantically inclined
★ Geminis could be in luck this month. Try to be generous to the feelings of those around you and allow partners plenty of space, even though you might not feel like doing so. It will be the best way to win their hearts.

CANCER (23 June-23 July)

★ What starts out as a discussion could easily become a heated debate or an argument this month. Try to see both sides and allow yourself to be kind to others. Give in a little and the argument could sway your way.

By DN's astrologer
Marion Stanton



LEO (24 July-23 Aug)

★ As opposition to your plans begins to disappear, you should also find that you are communicating your needs a lot better. Now you can begin to develop ideas that may have been on the back burner for a while. Go slowly though. Don't let the initial enthusiasm overwhelm you.

VIRGO (24 Aug-23 Sept)

★ A partner or a female relative could be giving you grief in April. It's more likely to be silly niggles than serious strife. You are likely to be easily irritated by things you don't usually even notice. Try not to upset others too much as these feelings will pass.

LIBRA (24 Sept-23 Oct)

★ It may feel like all or nothing in April. You have a lot invested in one all-important project, and loved ones could help to make or break the situation. Better make sure you keep your nearest and dearest on your side during this time.

SCORPIO (24 Oct-22 Nov)

★ Tensions ease at home and your ideas at work should continue to be successful as long as you don't become complacent. The more original your idea, the more likely it is to work and reap financial rewards.

SAGITTARIUS (23 Nov-21 Dec)

★ You are high in the popularity stakes in April. Not only that but you should be able to get down to some unusually (for you) serious thinking and talking which could bring about the kind of changes you are after. Make the most of this opportunity to win friends and influence people.

CAPRICORN (22 Dec-20 Jan)

★ Some young "go-getter" seems to be getting all the credit that you deserve. You need to be persistent and show the people that matter that your staying power is more valuable than another's enthusiasm, which is as likely as not to burn out when they get bored.

AQUARIUS (21 Jan-19 Feb)

★ Hopefully you bagged that new romance (or increased the romance in your current relationship) last month. Now you can begin to go places together. Unattached Aquarians can still benefit from the stimulation of good conversation and activity with close friends. If you can afford it this is a great month for an adventure holiday.

PISCES (20 Feb-20 March)

★ Jupiter is still busy in your sign giving you every opportunity to make a success of things. Venus also enters your sign in April bringing every chance that love will take an upturn too. At the very least those close to you will support your endeavours in more ways than one.

Trivia teasers

Tax your brains on these little teasers:

1. How many goals did England score in the 1966 World Cup final?
2. Who wrote *The Little*

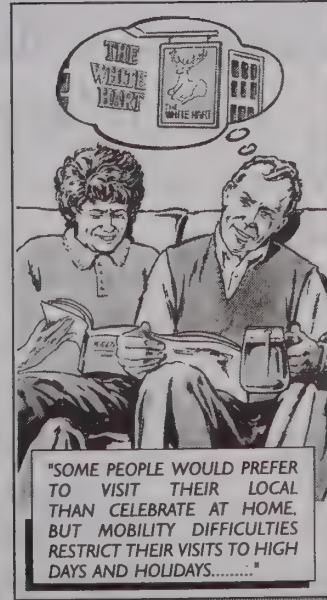
Matchgirl?

3. Name the outer rocky shell of the earth.
4. Who invented the lightning conductor?
5. Excluding Oxford and Cambridge, which is the oldest university in England?

6. Which surgeon first performed the human heart transplant operation?
7. What nationality was Marie Curie?
8. When did women first compete in the Olympics?

Answers on page 29

Mobility Matters



SUNRISE
improving people's lives

FOR A COPY OF OUR
COLOUR BROCHURE
AND FREE VIDEO

CALL FREE
0800 16 33 65
QUOTING DDN 806

OR FILL IN THE COUPON
AND SEND TO:
SUNRISE MEDICAL LTD.
FREEPOST DD348,
HIGH STREET,
WOLLASTON, DY8 4BR.

Please send me my FREE Sunrise Scoota colour brochure plus video. DDN 806

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Postcode _____





Dear Ann

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

A UNIQUE SERVICE

DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick can give disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor and a fully accredited Methodist preacher. She has also just become a homeopathic practitioner. Talk to her on (01787) 882111 on Thursdays 1pm-5pm and Mondays 6pm-10pm.



Send your letters to: Ann Darnbrough, *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW

Grievers need levers

My mother was diagnosed with cancer in 1996, when she was 81. Treatment allowed her a few months during which time she was told the cancer had been cleared.

Last August she went back to hospital. My two sisters and I visited her daily.

But finally the doctor said no more could be done and they needed the bed. She was told she would have to be moved to a hospice. My mother did not want this and as a family we wanted her to come home. We would look after her in the daytime but we needed a night-sitter for up to ten hours.

Social services said that due to lack of funding, it could not provide this service. I made it clear that my mother would not be leaving hospital until we had some help at home.

Miraculously, after I had made a few phone calls to our MP and to the local paper, the money was found from the Government Emergency Fund.

Why were we not told about that in the first place? We struggled hard to get the help we needed, but not everyone

can do that. My mother died ten days later.

I am upset with the way social services and the hospital behaved. Why are there no leaflets giving information for patients in circumstances like this? The leaflets should also give information on local charities which can help. In this area, for instance, the care organisation Crossroads provides a night-sitter for free. We did not know about that.

Michael, Merseyside

I extend to you and your family my condolences for the tragic loss of your mother. I was shocked to learn of the appalling difficulties you experienced in trying to secure the best care for her.

But I must say I was heartened by the letter you sent me from the hospital chief executive who fully admitted that your family was let down by the multidisciplinary team who should have provided support. His unreserved apologies were good to read.

The National Information Forum has a particular interest in encouraging the provision of

information in hospitals and has produced a leaflet for patients as well as a looseleaf book, *Signposts*, to help staff provide information for patients. The NHS often appears resistant to providing information, particularly on services available in the community from voluntary organisations. I do hope your ongoing commitment to requesting leaflets for patients bears fruit. Do let me know how you get on.

A chat-up's coming

I would tell Susan from Essex (DN, February) that she should not give up. I met my partner at a festival in Bristol last July. She has multiple sclerosis (ms) and uses a wheelchair. I look past someone's disability. After all, it is personality that counts, and having a laugh. That can mean coming up with terrible chat-up lines! Mine was something like: "Excuse me, you can tell me to get stuffed, but I am an ex-carer and I could not help noticing that your leg bag needs emptying."

We were engaged five days later and are now married. So

Susan, do not give up. There is somebody out there for you.

Steven, Bristol

Well, you took a big risk in your approach and it paid off. I am sure Susan will be very encouraged to hear your positive way of looking at life.

Equal duties too

May I say how much I admire your willingness to air controversial issues. We may not agree with the views expressed, but it is healthy that they should be discussed.

So try this for size. For years people with disabilities have campaigned for equality. Yet at the first hint that their means should be tested before benefits are awarded, and that they should pay tax in the same way as the rest of us, there are howls of protest.

In fact, 'Harmanisation' is long overdue. If people with disabilities want rights and not charity, they must accept responsibilities.

John, London

Wow. I may be airing a controversial issue here, but I

am keeping my head down on this one. I am sure there are readers who will want to agree with John or put him right.

Drugs stop the urge

I am a retired PE teacher with multiple sclerosis (ms).

I live alone and do not have the normal social encounters which occur in conventional lifestyles. I realise that, as they say, "it is not good for man to be alone", but unfortunately solitude is my lot.

I am not expecting things on a plate. For example, I have tried a dating agency, but they wanted more than £800 for three introductions.

I have also learned from bitter experience that there are endless numbers of "masseuses" and "escorts" who are delighted to alleviate my solitude, provided that my wallet is fat enough.

I am now trying to overcome my sexual urge. I have been prescribed amitriptyline principally to achieve relaxation, but it does also reduce the sexual urge and frankly I welcome that.

Am I being realistic in deciding to go it alone, and am I being practical in using a drug to help me?

Jim, London

If you find the drug you mention helpful, then it would seem reasonable to continue using it. I have no professional knowledge of this drug so would just urge you to check with your doctor that any possible side-effects are fully understood. You should also check that when you come off the drug your sexual urge will be fully restored.

I have always believed that doors should never be shut to any opportunities that may arise. But dating agencies can be very expensive. Have you thought of advertising in DN? It can be a while before this pays off, but I have heard of readers who have found partners or friends in this way.

Crossroads, 10 Regent Place, Warwickshire CV21 29N, tel: (01788) 573653.
National Information Forum, Post Point 10/10, BT Burne House, Bell Street, London NW1 5BZ, tel: 0171-402 6681.

**DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH A SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR YOUR COUNCIL?
ARE YOU GETTING THE EDUCATION, COMMUNITY CARE OR SERVICES YOU NEED?**

HAVE YOU BEEN THE VICTIM OF DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE YOU ARE DISABLED?

David Ruebain is a solicitor specialising in Education, Community Care and Local Government Law for disabled people. He is also a specialist in disability discrimination law.

We offer direct access for deaf people, through a lawyer fluent in British Sign Language. We also specialise in accident claims, medical negligence, conveyancing, wills and criminal law. Legal aid work undertaken. Offices also in Birmingham and Camden.

For free initial advice contact:

**DAVID LEVENE & CO.
SOLICITORS**

**Ashley House
235-239 High Road
Wood Green
London N22 4HF**

Telephone: 0181-881 7777

Minicom: 0181-881 6764

Facsimile: 0181-889 6395



Jubilee Lodge

Winged Fellowship Trust's London Centre

Offering respite care and holidays for people with severe physical disabilities and their carers.

All facilities are designed with **YOUR** needs in mind. En-suite and twin rooms available.

Licensed bar, conservatory, shop, colour television and a full range of visits, trips and entertainment.

Brochure available

BOOK NOW

0171 833 2594

Registered Charity no: 295072

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS • PHYSIOTHERAPISTS • CARE HOME/NURSING HOME OWNERS AND MANAGERS

PROFESSIONAL CARERS • SOCIAL WORKERS • COMMUNITY LOAN STORE MANAGERS • PURCHASING & SUPPLIES MANAGERS • TRUST MANAGERS

NURSING PROFESSIONALS • PROFESSIONAL CARERS • HEALTHCARE/MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS • DISABLED/ELDERLY PEOPLE • TRUST MANAGERS

Your chance to see all that's new in the healthcare industry today.

NCM '98 provides Britain's healthcare professionals with the unique opportunity to see for themselves how their needs and the needs of the people they look after can be better met.

Bringing together more than 200 exhibitors, NCM '98 will showcase the very latest products and services from wheelchairs, beds and stairlifts to medical equipment and service organisations. You'll be able to view and hear all that's new, important and exciting in one day, under one roof.

NCM '98 features several special areas of interest, including the ever popular New Product Showcase, the Mobility Test Track and the new Innovations area.

And there is an intensive programme of interest-packed free seminars too.*

For a valuable insight into the latest products and services available call our ticket hotline on 01844 262728 or fax us on 01844 218997, or clip the coupon below and post today.

* delegates will receive a Certificate of Attendance, and may choose to use the seminars as a way to meet part of their PREP requirement.

ncm'98



NAIDEX CARE MANAGEMENT

23-25TH JUNE

EARLS COURT 2 LONDON

FREE ENTRANCE

I would like to visit NCM '98. Please send me tickets.

Please send me information on exhibiting at NCM '98. ☐

Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Return coupon to: NCM'98, PO Box 21, Aylesbury Road, Thame, Oxon OX9 3PG.

DN4/98

Ticket Hotline

01844

262728

Scooting through the forest



Forest freedom: Dr Mike Bruton leads a group of scooter riders through the New Forest

Mike Bruton finds a ramble in Hampshire very liberating

I once took the freedom to ramble in the countryside for granted. As a teenager I walked up Snowdon and mountains in the Lake District. It was the sense of adventure and achievement that drove me on, even though I was not fully fit early on in my life.

Since those days, my physical strength has deteriorated and walking is now just a short distance supported by elbow crutches. Instead I have found new freedom through the use of electric pavement vehicles

and these have completely changed my life.

Quite rugged outdoor electric scooters and buggies are now available and there are even some excellent outdoor electric wheelchairs on the market. Using one of these, my old passion for country walking has revived and I reckon to cover the same distance in a day as my able-bodied rambling friends and share their enjoyment as I drive my quiet, pollution-free electric scooter over trails around the UK.

With a group of other enthusiasts we have formed a club and we run summer events all over England.

My favourite place for wheelchair rambling is the New

Forest in Hampshire. This is a very special place – it is criss-crossed by forest tracks which are car free and in relatively good condition. Most important of all, they are free from the wretched, ubiquitous stiles which bar so much of the footpath network to wheelchair users like me.

There are at least 120 miles of trackway suitable for wheelchair riders and many more paths passable for rugged people seeking challenge and adventure. There are also some excellent pubs, many of which are equipped with wheelchair accessible toilets.

I particularly enjoyed a 14 mile round trip our group covered a year or two ago on an

organised, escorted walk. Right in the midst of an extensive area of open heathland lies the village of Fritham. It is surrounded by a circle of fields and cultivated land beyond which lies the heath in all directions.

The road to the village ends conveniently by a pub with a large car park nestling on a nearby hillside.

The walk starts by following the upper of two forestry tracks on to open heathland surrounded by trees and with good views all around. Deer are often seen here as well as many of the semi-wild New Forest ponies.

After a mile there is a choice with an easy route left and a harder alternative to the right. We took the harder path and soon entered an area of developed plantation (known as enclosures). It is good to

'The New Forest is criss-crossed with forestry trackways free of the ubiquitous stile which bars so many footpaths to wheelchair users.'

stop in a place like this – to look and listen. All is very quiet except for the occasional rustle in the undergrowth and the sound of bird song.

After a while we took a left

turn and entered a difficult stretch where the track crosses soft sand. Scooters with fat tyres and large wheels had no trouble here but many of us sank in and needed assistance until firmer ground was reached. There are superb views all around here with heather covered hillside behind and deciduous woodland ahead. Not a car in sight – wonderful.

Once again on firm tracks we journeyed on through the woods and along a valley passing an occasional house. After seven miles we reached our destination, the Red Shoot pub (which has a disabled toilet). Other car and scooter riders had got there first and others came in later. Altogether there were 26 scooter riders. I enjoyed my pint and my pub lunch although it must be said the pub was very crowded.

Among our team of escorts and helpers was a magnificent team of AA patrol men, driving 4 by 4 breakdown vehicles. Throughout the walk, they were all hard at work swapping run-down batteries wherever possible and attending to the odd soft tyre. They are all volunteers who give up their weekends and come from all over the UK and the same team comes year by year.

The way back took us again through a combination of woodland enclosure and open heathland, peppered with hills and valleys. Eventually the end came in sight and with just half a mile to go, the battery on my scooter died so I had to creep in at half a mile an hour.

We all felt tired but exhilarated – my wife covered the fourteen miles on foot. But I have had suggestions that we should reduce the length of our walks to be kinder to our able-bodied escorts. I ask you, they say WE are disabled.

How to ride and ramble

The Countryside Access Group is affiliated to the Disabled Drivers' Association (DDA). To become a member, you must first join the DDA, although organised events are open to all disabled people. Events this summer include: Thames Valley weekend, 6-7 June along the Thames Path National Trail. Kielder Forest weekend, 20-21 June, Northumberland National Park. Worthing day out, 30 July. For details, write to the DDA Countryside Access Group, 14 Belmont Park Road, Maidenhead, SL6 6HT.

IT'S A WINNER!
The New Volkswagen
Cruiser
£13,950
FROM THE LEWIS REED GROUP

- Superb Wheelchair Accessibility
- 1.9 Turbo Diesel
- Power Steering
- Independent Suspension
- Luxurious Interior

For further details on this or any other of our range of wheelchair accessible vehicles contact The Lewis Reed Group 474 Woodchurch Road, Prenton, Birkenhead, Wirral, Merseyside L43 0SE

Telephone: 0151 608 9933
Facsimile: 0151 608 9393

Broadening Your Horizons - even further

Easy does it...

Enjoy the freedom to move around your home with ease again. Euroflex wheelchairs are designed to adapt to the individual needs of those less able to walk with confidence. Indoor powered models allow the user access to confined spaces and otherwise out of reach areas,



whilst our robust outdoor wheelchairs also ensure stability even over rough ground.

For full details call FREEPHONE 0500 618008 or complete the coupon and send to:
 SCANDIC REHAB LTD,
 FREEPOST,
 THE COACH HOUSE,
 134 PUREWELL,
 CHRISTCHURCH,
 DORSET BH23 1BR.

S Name
 Address
 Post Code Tel
 Please send me details of the Euroflex range of wheelchairs

A lottery no-one wants to win

New lottery game show presenter Anthea Turner says why she is backing MS Week later this month

people often say that no two people's MS is the same.

MS Week, which is happening from 19 to 26 April, is out to increase understanding of this condition. High on the agenda is the Society's campaign for better access to health care for people with MS. Many people

still believe they are being told at diagnosis simply to get on with their lives. In fact a great deal of help can be given to relieve a long line of symptoms.

There is no reason why most people who have MS should not continue working long after diagnosis. It makes no

sense at all to lose all that valuable experience and expertise unnecessarily.

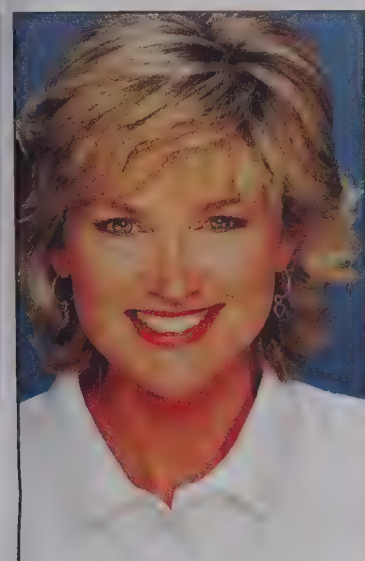
Of course, the Society also hopes to attract funds for an expansion of its helpline, and to back a commitment of £8m in medical research. With those 2,500 new diagnoses being

made each year, I think there is everything to play for.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society, 25 Effie Road, Fulham, London, SW6 1EE, tel: 0171-610 7171, e-mail: info@mssociety.org.uk

One thing is certain next week. Around 50 people in the UK will be diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). It will be the same the following week. And every week until the reason for it is found.

With MS, the certainty ends there. Unpredictability is a word which could have been invented to describe this



Turner: everything to fight for

impairment which usually appears in the prime of life when your family and job responsibilities are most demanding.

A few years ago, the Multiple Sclerosis Society asked me to welcome competitors at the end of a Round Britain rally. The finishing line was outside one of the Society's respite care centres and the drivers had

'High on the list of priorities is helping employers to take a positive attitude towards staff with MS'

raised a sizeable sum in sponsorship. Since then, as well as lending a hand with the fund-raising, I have had the chance to meet many people whose lives have been differently affected by MS.

I have seen how symptoms affecting movement, sight, speech and continence can come and go in some, or lead to severe disability in others.

I have been told how fatigue and pain are common but often unseen problems. It is now easy for me to understand why

MEDI O T I O N

NOW WITH UNIQUE HIRE/BUYER PLAN!

"Viva" Full body model

THE NEW "VIVA" STATE OF THE ART THERAPEUTIC EXERCISER.

- FULLY PASSIVE MOTION
- ASSISTED ACTIVE MOTION
- OR FULLY ACTIVE

"Viva" Lower body model

240 VOLT MACHINES FOR LOWER AND UPPER BODY THERAPY.

UNIQUE ANTI SPASM CONTROL ENSURES SAFE AND GENTLE CONTINUOUS PASSIVE MOTION.

Can also be used as active trainer using your own muscle power. Handset operates at variable speeds and resistance to encourage progress and provides bio-feedback with a digital display.

Designed specifically for M.S. and C.P. patients and used extensively Worldwide for Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy.

SUITABLE FOR

- multiple sclerosis
- 'stroke' patients
- paralysis (*paraplegia and tetraplegia*)
- non-inflammatory illness of the peripheral nerves (*polyneuropathy*)
- spastic and rheumatic illnesses
- insufficient physical exercise
- blood circulation disorders (*prophylaxis of thrombosis*)
- oedemas
- Parkinson's disease
- osteoporosis
- muscular dystrophy
- stiffness of the joints
- arthrosis


SOLE UK IMPORTER

TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO HELP YOUR CIRCULATORY PROBLEMS AND IMPROVE THE FLEXIBILITY OF YOUR JOINTS

CONTACT US FOR A BROCHURE: MEDIMOTION LTD, PENCADER, CARMARTHENSHIRE, SA39 9AZ.
TEL: 01559 384 097 FAX: 01559 384 814.

"Pico" Lower body model

Calling all inventors

ncm'98

 If you have an invention not yet in production, or a design that will change disabled people's lives, DN and Naidex Care Management (NCM) want to hear from you. We are planning a new section at Naidex in June devoted to helping designers and inventors get their products noticed by manufacturers and users.

For a special stand price, smaller entrepreneurs will be able to show off their products under the Innovations banner, sponsored by DN. And they will also get coverage in DN. Contact Sandie McCoubrey at NCM for an application form, tel: 0181-910 7959.



Bright ideas

Dan Batten's gadget guide is back...

TFH have published their *Fun & Achievement 1998 catalogue*. It covers a wide range of products designed to assist sensory stimulation of young people, such as "light ladders", which respond to increased voice levels. On the fun side, there is a wonderful swing for

young people, which fixes to your wheelchair! For a catalogue, tel: (01299) 827820.

The Dreama Posture Care system (*right*), is a new mattress made up of a series of tubular cushions attached to a flexible, aluminium base. The



base can be manipulated to alter the profile of the mattress, and a range of pads can be inserted between the cushions to achieve optimum comfort for the user. For information, call Jenx, tel: 0114-285 3376.



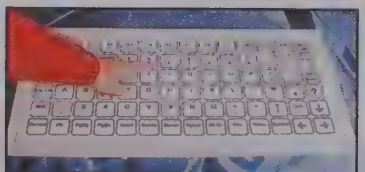
A new style of scissor has been created (*below*), which reduces the potential for accidents and subsequent "gushers" which may ensue! They feature plastic guards protruding just above the cutting blades, which bend the material around the blades, protecting dangling digits. Available from Corner Communications, tel: (0114) 268 7800.



The Hot Spot Scald Warning Ring offers protection against scalding from hot water. The ring warns of excessive temperature by changing colour. To get one of these scorching inventions call the Vernacare hotline, tel: (01422) 882467.

Is it sometimes difficult to get to the door? A Hands-Free Door Answering System could solve your problem. A two-way speaker is activated when the external door button is pressed. Another button allows you to open the door to your visitor. A more advanced system includes a camera for viewing your visitor on your tv. Ideal protection from DSS snoops, debt collectors and door-to-door salesmen. Available from AML Promotions, tel: (01323) 647722.

A new range of oversized keyboards, which connect directly to the keyboard socket of a standard PC, are now available (*below*). Keys are enlarged to allow use via head pointer stick, stylus or feet. The keyboard also speaks when a key is pressed and an LCD displays the key selection for deaf users. Further information from Mervyn Edwards, Electro-coustic Limited, tel: (01264) 333664.



The revolutionary new Stannah Power Chair is comfortable, manoeuvrable and affordable, giving you the freedom to get on with life. And right now Stannah are offering you a **FREE 7-DAY HOME TRIAL**. All you have to do is fill in and return this reply-paid coupon or call us free on **FREEPHONE 0800 715438**.

☐ Please send me a Stannah Power Chair brochure. ☐ Please call to arrange my **FREE 7-DAY HOMETRIAL**.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Return to Stannah Ltd, Dept 6000, FREEPOST, SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR.



What's on

The Relatives Association is hosting *Long term care for African Caribbean Elders (Residential and Nursing Home and very Sheltered Housing)*, 29 April, 10am-4.30pm, at Britannia Street Conference Centre, Britannia Street, London WC1. For residents, providers and relatives, it covers awareness of provision, research materials and more. Information from Wes Dowridge, The Relatives Association, 5 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SN, tel: 0171-916 0515.

The Circles Network is holding a one day conference, *Supported Employment*, on 28 April in Swindon, led by John Duff, general manager of EmployAbility, and Robert Stack, chief executive, Community Options, New Jersey, USA. For information, tel: 0117-939 3917. Future courses include Community Building (8-10 April), Conflict Resolution (21 April), Sustaining Circles of Support (18-19 May) and Autism and Movement Differences (9-11 June). Information for these from Kathryn Curry, tel: 0117-939 6660.

The Conductive Education Centre is holding a London summer school for youngsters (18 months to 8 years old) with cerebral palsy. Based on holistic learning, the younger children's school will run for 10 days, starting 18 July, with the elder children's school running for a fortnight, starting 20 July. Secure a place by contacting Mrs Hewson, Conductive Education Centre, 54 Muswell Hill, London N10 3ST, tel: 0181-444 7242.

Whitby and District Disablement Action Group will hold *The Percival Push*, a sponsored event to improve access for disabled people within the North York Moors National Park, 24-25 June. Dave Percival will push his wheelchair from Castleton to Hutton-le-Hole. Anyone wishing to join Dave for all, or part, of the trip should contact Rosemary Davies, WDDAG, Church House Centre, Flowergate, Whitby YO21 3BA, tel: (01947) 821001.

The UK Special Interest Group (SIG) in Cerebral Palsy are holding a conference and AGM entitled *Challenging Behaviour*, 17 June in London. For further details contact Kathryn McCormick, tel: (01483) 770046 (home/anserwphone).

The Computability Centre is holding two open days called *Disability, Computing and You*. They will show the potential of computers and many of the alternatives and adaptations that can make computers accessible to people with disabilities. 28 April in London and 19 May in Leeds. For bookings, tel: 0800-269 545.

On the right is DN's 2nd website list. If you want yours mentioned, send the address to Damien Vessey (address on page 3).

Video top five

- 1. MEN IN BLACK** (Columbia-Tristar): Smooth suits give aliens the boot.
- 2. CONSPIRACY THEORY** (Warner): Mel Gibson predicts just what you'd expect.
- 3. SPEED 2** (Fox Pathé): Sequel which doesn't even reach first gear.
- 4. BEAN** (Polygram): Crazy capers with the rubber-faced comedian.
- 5. THE LOST WORLD** (CIC): Richard Attenborough didn't learn the first time round.

Chart supplied by MIRB.

☐ Closed captions- video with pre-recorded word-for-word captions.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

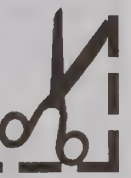
ACROSS: 1. Prosthesis
7. Arm 8. Ambulant 9. Incur
10. Antler 11. Office
12. Hoist 15. Not 17. Parachute 19. Ionic 20. Gradation 21 One
DOWN: 1. Pharaoh 2. Orbit
3. Tallest 4. Satisfaction
5. Sanction 6. Emergent
13. Inroad 14. White
16. Orion 18. Page 18. Eon

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Four 2. Hans Christian Anderson 3. Lithosphere
4. Benjamin Franklin
5. Durham 6. Dr Christian Barnard 7. Polish 8. 1912

INFORMATION

- BT Electronic Yellow Pages:**
<http://www.ukonline.co.uk/UKOnline/UK/phonebook.html>
- Centre for Accessible Environments:**
<http://www.cae.org.uk>
- Citizens Advice Bureau:**
<http://www.poptel.org.uk/cab>
- Dial UK:**
<http://members.aol.com/dialuk/index.html>
- Disabled Living Foundation:**
<http://www.atlas.co.uk/dlf>
- Railtrack:**
<http://www.railtrack.co.uk>
- Princes Trust:**
<http://www.princes-trust.org.uk>
- Disabled Living Centres Council:**
<http://www.dlcc.demon.co.uk/homepage.html>
- Computability:**
http://www.healthworks.co.uk/daccess/D-access/D-Access_Orgs/Computability.html
- CHILDREN**
- Association for Conductive Education:**
<http://www.ieway.com/~ssweeney>
- Children's Society:**
<http://www.the-childrens-society.org.uk>
- NSPCC:**
<http://www.nspcc.org.uk>
- Save the Children:**
<http://www.oneworld.org/scf>
- Childline:**
<http://www.childline.org.uk>
- Wizz-Kids:**
<http://www.whizzkidz.org>
- Children with Leukaemia:**
<http://www.leukaemia.org.uk>
- CHARITY LINKS / VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**
- <http://www.charities.org/charity.html>
- <http://www.charitynet.org>
- <http://www.disabilitynet.co.uk>
- Disability Scotland:**
http://www.dis_scot.gcal.ac.uk
- Capability Scotland:**
<http://www.capability-scotland.org.uk>
- MOTORING**
- Disabled Drivers Motor Club Ltd:**
<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/ddmc>
- Automobile Association (AA):**
<http://www.theaa.co.uk>
- Royal Automobile Association (RAC):**
<http://www.rac.com>
- Motability:**
<http://www.motability.co.uk>



Information

The *ADD Update* is a bi-monthly newsletter available for parents of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. An independent publication, it is aimed at parents and professionals. For details send an SAE marked Update to 127 Embleton Road, Methley, Leeds LS26 9DA.

ESL Healthcare, manufacturers of shower and bathing equipment, has gone on the Internet, with helpful advice on shower trays, doors, rails, seats, access and mobility. Their address is <http://www.eslhealthcare.co.uk>.

The Charityfair 1998 Guide has been launched, giving details of all events at Charityfair '98, Business Design Centre, London, 21-23 April. The fair will have over 120 workshops, conferences and seminars, and an advice and services centre. For a copy, tel: 0171-209 4949/1015.

Continued on page 34

Commission agents required NE NW SE SW



Roll-aid converts your manual wheelchair into a power chair

Attached and removed in seconds and will fit 95% of chairs in use.
Highly manoeuvrable indoors and outdoors.
0-5mph variable speed control with easily operated central tiller for steering and forward and reverse on central rocker switch.
20 mile range.
Complete with gel cell batteries and charger unit.
Fraction of the cost of power chairs with extremely low maintenance costs.
Fits in car boot or back seat.
Delivered to your door.

Call for a free brochure.

0181 668 1908

0113 261 1268

Commission agents required NE NW SE SW



Christopher

date of birth 30/8/89

Christopher is White/European of English/Italian parents. He has mild learning difficulties and attends a school which meets these needs. He can be a very demanding child and needs a lot of one-to-one attention as he can't concentrate on

anything for long. However, he does give a lot back, he is an affectionate and friendly boy who enjoys his food and is no trouble in getting to bed!

At present, he has direct contact with his parents 4 times a year and his adopted sisters 3 times a year. We are looking for a permanent home for Christopher, either 2 parent or single carer, he must be the youngest child in the family. On-going support, including a respite package, will be included.

For further information, please contact Val Jeacocke, Social Worker, Family Placement Service (Long-term), 120 Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts. Telephone: (01727) 866505.

The National Federation of Shopmobility produces a biannual directory of Shopmobility schemes, giving information and listing all the UK's schemes with useful, clear symbols. For an application form contact the National Federation of Shopmobility, 85 High Street, Worcester WR1 2ET.

Artyfacts

The Annie Lindsell Trust, set up in memory of Annie Lindsell who died last October, is releasing a CD of her singing the blues, with a booklet of

(Part of the first line will be in bold capitals)

DN reserves the right to edit advertisements if necessary. Completion of this form does not guarantee inclusion in a particular issue. **Sorry no refunds.** DN is a non-profit making newspaper.

Look out for

Heatwave Disability Arts Festival is a three year long celebration of disability arts and culture in the South-West. There will

Help

Dr Lynda Webb, Loughborough University, seeks volunteers with physical disabilities

Moscow Disabled Motorists Club (MAKI) invites you to take part in the 9th International Competition for Disabled Drivers, Moscow, 6 June 1998. The competition has two parts: a 250km rally and a driving skills test. Further information from Olga Vinogradova,

I want to set up a Job Club in Northeast Essex, or an advice agency run by and for people with disabilities, but I don't know how to write a business plan. Any help would be very much appreciated. Unfortunately I cannot pay, only in kindness. Contact David Weaver, tel: (01206) 385073.

DN is on the web. Visit our site at <http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk> or you can e-mail us with ideas on editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

MOBILITY SOLUTIONS

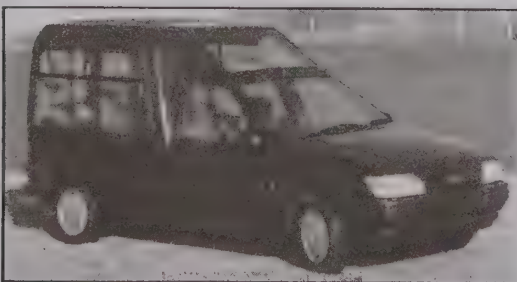
FOR DISABLED DRIVERS & PASSENGERS



EXPERT



CARGO



COURIER

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
AND LITERATURE ON OUR
RANGE OF PRODUCTS &
SERVICES CONTACT:**

POYNTING CONVERSIONS

**FARADAY ROAD, CHURCHFIELDS
IND. EST., SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE
SP2 7NR
TEL: 01722 336048
FAX: 01722 416241**

FREE 1998 BROCHURE Austria

NOW AVAILABLE **Boston**

CALL 0181-997 3799 **Butlins**

Escorted Tours **Devon**

with a choice of care **Ireland**

systems to suit your needs **Jersey**

CHALFONT LINE **Malta**

HOLIDAYS

The Quality Holiday **Paris**

Company For People With **Scotland**

Disabilities **Switzerland**
and more



Telephone 0181-997 3799
4 Medway Parade, Perivale, Middlesex UB6 8HR

For sale

BATRICAR FOR SALE. Excellent condition, accessories included. Also car port. Bargain at £1,300 ono. Tel: 0181-554 1782.

BROOKS SUPREME STAIRLIFT. Straight stair. Only used for two weeks. Cost £1,785. Also Elap rotating car seat. Fits 2-door Fiesta. Perfect condition. Cost £515. Offers considered. Tel: (01252) 548719.

NISSAN VANETTE CHAIRMAN. 2.3 diesel. Side windows, ramped back, electronic belts. Seats four plus wheelchair. 1996 model, 20k miles. £10,499. Tel: (01962) 865311.

SUNRISE MEDICAL POWERTEC F15

Electric wheelchair featuring folding aluminium frame, swing-away footrests, maintenance free batteries and flip-up armrest for easy transfer. Wheelchair goes to best offer, payment going to the Peto Institute, Scope. Buyer collects. Closing date: 17 April. Contact Saira Khan, tel: 0171-619 7319.

BIDS PLEASE! BIDS PLEASE!

CONSTABLES CARCHAIR COMPLETE with lift, lap belt and table. Becomes front passenger seat of standard 2-door car. Excellent condition. Can be demonstrated in Reading area. £1,500. Tel: 0118-969 6409.

BEC STERLING XL. Luxury seat, lights and charger. Excellent condition, £800. Tel: (01227) 750972.

Wanted

ALVEMA MAX TO suit 5 year old. Will collect. Tel: 0181-946 0826.

LEVO WHEELCHAIR OR similar, to enable disabled person to stand upright. Any model considered. Please tel: (01282) 425472 (with details).

Accommodation

PERIOD COTTAGE, STONE-BUILT. Two bedrooms, full wheelchair access. Large fitted bathroom and kitchen, gas c/h, beamed ceilings, large log burning feature fireplace, through ceiling lift, secluded garden, accessible shops 200 yards. Located in the thriving Oxfordshire market town of Wallingford which has good road links: Oxford c.10 miles; Reading c.12 miles; London c.50 miles; set in-between the M4 and M40. The property is modernised throughout and full of old world charm. Rarely is such a character property so accessible. £105,000, call Barry, tel: (01491) 836855.

SPANISH TOWN HOUSE in Nerja. One mile from sea on traffic free estate. Ground floor bedroom with adjustable drive-in shower/wc, kitchen/diner. First floor 3 beds and bath. Two patios, communal garden and swimming pool. Furnished. £50,000. Tel/Fax: 0034 525 21462.

DN apologises for not running any personal adverts in this issue – this was due to some unexpected classified adverts. We will run them in our next issue.

Courses

Short residential writing courses in Devon, Yorkshire and Invernesshire, with two professional authors. Good access and facilities for all including carers.

More info' from: The Arvon Foundation, Totleigh Barton, Sheepwash, Beaworthy, Devon EX21 5NS, tel: (01409) 231338.



Royal Schools for the Deaf Manchester

Profound Learning Disability & Multi Sensory Impairment (A Distance Learning Course)

If you are involved with someone who has complex needs why not develop your skills and obtain recognition for them? Parents, carers and professionals may follow an established two-year course and gain a University award/qualification.

Courses are available at Certificate, Adv. Diploma and MSc levels. Work is home based, supported by workshops and telephone tutor support. Issues relating to Challenging Behaviour, Communication, Education, Ordinary Life Principles and Sensory Impairment are addressed.

Further details from:

The Course Secretary, University of Manchester, JTI Office, RSD, Stanley Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 6RQ.
Tel: 0161-437 3577 Fax: 0161-436 5060
E-mail: 101574.2066@compuserve.com

The University of Manchester Mencap Royal Schools for the Deaf Manchester

Holidays (continued on page 36)

NAISH HOLIDAY VILLAGE: Clifftop park with "excellent" status. New Milton, Hampshire. Excellent site facilities within 100 yds. with indoor/outdoor pools; restaurant, bar, take-away. Fully equipped, two bedroom, fully wheelchair accessible log cabin accommodation. Sleeps 6, well furnished. Free club membership.

GRANGE COURT HOLIDAY VILLAGE: Park with "good" status. Goodrington Sands, Devon. Excellent site facilities within short walk, with indoor/outdoor pools, restaurant, bar, take-away. Fully equipped, 2 bedroom, fully wheelchair accessible mobile home. Sleeps 4-6, well appointed. Free club membership. (Purchased with funds from the National Lottery).

MILDENREATH HOLIDAY VILLAGE: Excellent seaside site with good facilities, just outside Looe in Cornwall. Restaurant, clubhouse, indoor pool. Fully equipped and wheelchair accessible 2 bedroom chalet accommodation. Sleep 6 – well furnished and comfortable. Free club membership.

Details: Mr P. Cash 01425 672055 – Bournemouth Spina Bifida Association, registered charity No. 261914.

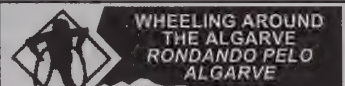
PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL "Holiday Care Award Winners"

Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service. Please ring or write for colour brochure.

R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (01208) 850277 or 850617

Discover rural France at AUBERGE DE LA TOUR

Enjoy being wined and dined in our 12th century farmhouse situated in the Loire Valley/Vendee area. Fully wheelchair accessible. Minibus available for excursions. Personal care available. Qualified English nurse proprietor. Generous discounts for small groups. For brochure contact Pat & John Bartlam, 40 Rue St Eloi, Courlay, 79440 Deux Sevrès, France. Tel/Fax: (00.33)5.49.72.25.37. Mobile home for self-catering.



Self Catering villas and cottages, hotels, B&B, car hire with hand controls, adapted vans, etc. Scuba Diving courses and other sporting and leisure facilities. David Player, Wheeling Around The Algarve, Apartado 3421, 8136 Almancil, Portugal Tel: 00 351 89 393636 Fax: 00 351 89 397448

Have Fun, Fun, Fun! "Skylarks" – Nottingham

Purpose-built holiday centre recently reopened in August after £1.6m refurbishment. 26 single en-suite, 5 twin rooms. Electric hoists. CTV. Hydro pool. Bar. Help buttons. Free trips/excursions. Nurses/volunteer support. Prices from £245 pw – including food/care. For brochure, please tel: 0171 833 4579 ext 132.

DEVON — Converted barn

Next to owner in beautiful Teign valley. Specially designed for wheelchair users. Lift to 1st floor, wide doors, wheel-in-shower. Sleeps 4. Pets welcome. Tel: 0164 724445

Roselands Holiday Chalets

Ideal for all South Devon attractions – a small family run concern offering self-catering detached chalet accommodation with wheelchair access and safe parking between Newton Abbot and Totnes. Pets are very welcome and have the freedom of our large garden.

Tel: (01803) 812701.



ORANGE BADGE MACHINE S.L.

Wheelchair Hire • Manual & Electric Chairs
Electronic Scooters • Walking Aids
Electric Powered Tricycles
Airport Service & Island Tours
Edificio Arco Iris, Cristian Sur, No 9 Av. Penetracion, 38650 Los Cristianos, Arona, Tenerife

TEL/FAX: (00 34 22) 79 73 55

April – May – June – July Three bedroom holiday cottage £140 per week in the country – by the sea

Comfortable and well equipped – sleeping six
Wheelchair access in cottages, gardens & farm
GORSLOWYD FARM, Tanygroes
Cardigan SA43 2HZ. Tel: 01239 810593
John ch 14 v 27

Wheelchair accessible six berth mobile home for hire. Two bedrooms, lounge, adapted bathroom, kitchen and all home comforts. Site with all facilities at Selsey in Sussex. Owned by Disabled Drivers' Assoc.

Details: Arthur Agar, 6 Hoes Close, 205 Heston Road, Heston, Middlesex TW5 0RN. Tel: 0181-572 8224.

ORANGE BLOSSOM COAST SPAIN

new for '98. Two sunny 4th floor 'penthouse' apartments in private beachfront complex. Pool, unspoilt resort. Two bedrooms each. Fully equipped, roll-in showers. Huge terrace with sea views. For brochure, tel: (01452) 740820.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

HOME WITH A HEART FOR DISABLED TRAVELLERS! SPACIOUS, LUXURY, ADAPTED BUNGALOW SITUATED ON GOLF COURSE. 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS (MANGAR BATHLIFT INSTALLED), CABLE TV, FREE LOCAL TELEPHONE CALLS. FREE COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP. 24 HOUR 'ON CALL' MANAGEMENT COMPANY. 15 mins ORLANDO AIRPORT. 20 mins DISNEY. PARAPLEGIC OWNER. SUE FISHER, 5 PARK LANE, BROUGHTON PARK, SALFORD M7 4HT. TEL/FAX: 0161 792 3029 BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Brittany Cottage to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details **C. Hodgson.** Tel (01924) 454300.

Dordogne barn conversion to let.

Designed specifically for wheelchair user and family. Sleeps 6. Accessible local restaurants. Details D. Clifford, tel: 00 33 553 909 940.

B&B in a working water mill twixt the Mendips & the Levels. Six bedrooms inc. one Cat. 1 room with one double bed & one single bed – curtained for privacy. Pub opposite accessible. Breakfast served in room. Burcott Mill (2 Crown Comm.) Guest House, Burcott, Wells, Somerset BA5 1NJ. E-mail: BURCOTTMILLWELLS@compuserve.com

SHOREFIELD COUNTRY PARK

Downton, Hampshire: Award winning coastal site with indoor/outdoor pools; sports/leisure facilities; restaurants and bars. Wheelchair accessible, fully equipped 1/2 bedroom chalets, sleep 4-6. Call: K. Pepper on 01590 642073 – New Forest Mencap Charity No. 1038962.

A really unique customised holiday for family with wheelchair user – totally equipped motorhome – see the Rockies and western Canada. Driving and worries taken care of. **01653 628 607**

DISABLED? NEED A HOLIDAY?

Luxury en-suite accommodation set in the beautiful Royal Forest of Dean overlooking the Wye Valley in Gloucestershire. Full nursing care available for mild and severe disabilities. Delicious menu, daily outings. Carers/Partners very welcome. Tel: (01594) 833495 for colour brochure.

Fuengirola – Spain

Studio (sleeps 2) in 4-star hotel on the sunny Costa del Sol. Wheel-in shower. 8km of level promenade with accessible restaurants and shops. For info: Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX, tel: (01753) 685718.

Country House Holidays – SURREY

Crabhill House. Fully accessible country house – with purpose-built extension. 26 single en-suite rooms. 5 twin rooms. Licensed bar. CTV. Conservatory. Lovely gardens. Electric hoists. Help buttons. Nurses/volunteer support. Day trips to Brighton, London, Theatreland etc. From £235 pw – food/care included. For information/booking form tel: 0171-833 4579 ext 132.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAY COTTAGE IN RURAL FRANCE

Charming cottage in Dordogne region available for rent. Reasonable rates. If you are looking for peace and quiet, warm weather, good food and wine, this is the place for you. Book now for 1998. For more information tel: 0181 885 4971 evenings.

ODDICOMBE HALL HOTEL "SECOND TO NONE"

Provides an excellent holiday for the disabled person, full disabled facilities, all rooms have breathtaking sea views, which open on to a private garden. Open all year. Why not escape and relax at delightful Babbacombe, Torquay. Oddicombe Hall Hotel, Seaford, Babbacombe, Torquay TQ1 3LF, tel: (01803) 313457. Holiday Care Service Category 2.

A HOLIDAY IN CAMBRIDGE

Bridget's hostel provides holidays for people with a physical disability. Bridget's is five minutes from the town centre and from other major attractions in Cambridge. We have seven fully adapted single rooms, a large communal kitchen and living room, three specialised bathrooms/shower room and the possibility of part-time care. For this year it is expected that guests will bring their own carers. For more information and price guide, call Jenny Sandland on 01223 354312.

GAER COTTAGES

"1993 HOLIDAY CARE AWARD WINNERS" Quality self-catering cottages for ALL the family with an emphasis on facilities for disabled visitors. 6 of the 9 traditional Welsh stone cottages are single storey, easily accessible from the car park. WTB Top Grading 5 Dragons. Luxurious indoor heated swimming pool with hoist. Games room. Open ALL YEAR. Groups welcome. For colour brochure telephone:

RICHARD & LINDA BURGESS
01570 470275

Tenders



Kirklees
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY HOUSING SERVICES

SUPPLY AND FITTING OF STAIRLIFTS TO DOMESTIC PROPERTIES – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Kirklees Council wishes to receive applications from suitably skilled contractors willing to supply and fix, and initially maintain straight stairlifts in approximately 80 Council owned properties in Kirklees, over a two year period, commencing November 1998.

Following an initial selection process by questionnaire, a number of contractors will be selected to submit tenders.

Contact John Barry at the Housing and Health Unit on 01484 223512, for an application form and questionnaire. Both documents must be completed and returned to us by Friday 1 May 1998.

Please note this is NOT an invitation to tender.



Housing & Health Unit
"A home is for living in"



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

PURCHASING AND SUPPLY DIVISION

NATIONAL DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE

The Scottish Office Social Work Services Group and the Scottish Accessible Information Forum require a supplier to establish and operate a new national disability information service.

The aim of the Service will be to provide outlets throughout Scotland with an up to date secondary advice, assistance and information service for people with disabilities.

It is intended that the grant will be awarded at the end of September 1998, with the Service being fully operational by April 1999.

Suppliers interested in being invited to tender should send their applications in writing to: Mike Turnbull, The Scottish Office, Purchasing and Supply Division, Room 33/6 James Craig Walk, Edinburgh EH1 3BA. Telephone 0131 244 3756, Fax 0131 244 3661. The deadline for receipt of applications is Wednesday 8 April 1998.

Grants

National Disability Film and Video Project

This scheme (formerly the ARTS COUNCIL of ENGLAND'S Disability Arts Video Project) is aimed at established and emergent disabled film/video makers and artists from around England. The Project will commission two or three projects (of between £10,000 - £20,000), and provide two development grants of up to £2,000 from an open submission:

- Film and video art works by disabled artists that are experimental, artistically challenging and innovative in method and formal approach;
- Documentary works by disabled film/video makers that deal creatively with issues arising from the experiences of disabled people, and/or the work of disabled artists;
- Multimedia and internet projects by disabled artists that employ moving images.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 25 May 1998.

Project guidelines and application forms (all formats) available from: Paul Green at West Midlands Disability Arts Forum, Unit 334, The Custard Factory, Gibb Street, Digbeth, Birmingham B9 4AA.

Funded by

THE
ARTS
COUNCIL
OF ENGLAND

Holidays

Blagdon Farm Country Holidays
Devon/Cornwall border

Superb, south-facing, wheelchair accessible luxury bungalows overlooking lake and set within 38 acres of glorious countryside. Many on-site facilities including tea room/shop. Take-away meals and equipment hire available. Tourist Board Highly Commended.

For colour brochure please contact:
Pauline and Tony Blight, Blagdon Farm,
Ashwater, Beaworthy, Devon EX21 5DF.
Phone: 01409 211509. Fax 01409 211510.

Sand and Sea – SOUTHPORT

"Sandpipers" overlooks Southport's Marine lake/beaches. Trips to the Lake District, Blackpool, Alton Towers. Accessible holiday centre. 12 single rooms. 12 twin rooms. Help buttons. Indoor swimming pool. CTV. Bar. From £250 pw – food, full care/volunteer help included. Registered with Social Services. Most physical disabilities catered for. Brochure? Call: 0171-833 4579 ext 132.

ASHWELLTHORPE HALL HOTEL
provides good access, specialist equipment in some rooms. All in a comfortable, friendly country house hotel set in several acres of natural grounds, nine miles from the ancient city of Norwich, offering excellent opportunities for exploring the countryside and coastline of East Anglia.
Now taking Easter bookings.
Ring 01508 489324

THE STACKPOLE CENTRE

UNIQUE HOLIDAY COMPLEX ON THE SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE COAST FOR FAMILIES, GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS: SELF-CATERING, COTTAGES, GROUP HOUSES & HOTEL (Wales Tourist Board 3 Crowns Highly Commended) POOL, JACUZZI, THEATRE, RESTAURANT, ART, POTTERY & MUSIC ROOMS, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE LEVEL 1
For info & Holiday Pack, Tel: 01646 661425
Fax: 01646 661456

MAR Y SOL – TENERIFE

Enjoy year round sunshine at the Mar y Sol complex. Wheelchair accessible apartments, heated pool with hoist, restaurant, poolside bar, equipment hire, care agency. Ring today for cheapest winter prices. Contracted to ATOL agents.
Susan Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road,
Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX.
Tel: (01753) 685718.

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS (CAIRNGORMS).
2 beautifully restored forest village cottages offering high quality family accommodation with Access Award for wheelchair users. Peaceful, secluded, very warm and generously equipped. Open all year, special rates. Comprehensive local access guide, domestic specifications and specialised equipment available. Tel/Fax 01479 821642
<http://freespace.virgin.net/dv.dean/>

SCOTTISH BORDERS. Two delightful, superbly equipped fully heated stone-built cottages with open fires in peaceful surroundings with beautiful views. Both suitable for disabled and able-bodied people. One totally wheelchair accessible (disabled categories 2&3). Each STB graded 5 crowns/commended and sleeps six adults. Lots for everyone to see and do. Private parking and gardens. Pets welcome.
Tel/Fax (01450) 860678.
<http://www.aboutscotland.co.uk/quince/cherry.html>

LLETY MIERI
LLANDEILO, WEST WALES
3 charming award-winning cottages, designed for wheelchair users and their families. Peaceful rural location overlooked by Dinffwr Castle. Each warm and well equipped cottage sleeps 4. Extensive grounds and games room. Open all year. Short breaks available. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (01558 823 059) for brochure.

For sale (continued on page 37)

Small automatic cars for sale

Low mileage. L reg onwards. Fully serviced, very good condition. Can deliver.
Prices from £4,500.

Details from PJI Associates Ltd.
Tel: 01787 281881 or Fax: 01787 281659

Nissan Prairie Anniversary "Car-chair"

electric lift incorporating own wheelchair.
Power steering, 54,000 miles,
electric windows, two owners from new.
1989 F reg. £6,495, part exchange welcome.
Finance arranged.

Contact Hoyle Bros: 01422 202009 (7 days)

Ford Escort Chairman

28,000 miles only. As new condition.
Excellent rear wheelchair access with
lowering hydraulics. Absolutely superb,
only £3,895. Trade

Tel: (01978) 840064 or 0860-937 582.

D&K MOBILITY

TEL: 01474 353837
WE CARE FOR YOUR CARE

5% OFF
ALL NEW
ELECTRICAL
EQUIPMENT
FOR A
LIMITED
PERIOD
ONLY



Mobility Scooters
Stairlifts (second hand and new)
Invalid Accessories

SALES • SERVICE • HIRE

62 HOLLYBUSH ROAD
GRAVESEND, KENT DA12 5QQ

NOW OPEN:
Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-3pm

THE WHEELCHAIR
WAREHOUSE

THE LARGEST CHOICE
IN THE UK FOR
Manual Chairs - Power chairs - Scooters -
Sports wheelchairs
THE ONE STOP SHOPPING
SOURCE

Run by disabled people for disabled people
SALES, HIRE, REPAIRS &
MODIFICATIONS UNDERTAKEN
All makes - Impartial advice given
Home visits available - Free trials
All guarantees honoured
MOTABILITY *Reasonable rates*
FINANCE AVAILABLE



The masters
of mobility

0181
569 8955

Units 1-4,
Shield Drive, Brentford,
Middlesex TW8 9EX

Recruitment (continued on page 37 and 38)

Recruitment (continued on page 37 and 38)

Disability Wales/Anabledd Cymru
is looking for a committed and creative
person to fill the following post:



Disability Wales
Anabledd Cymru

Independent Living Project
Project Officer (£15,885)

Full-time, National Lottery Charities Board funded post until
April 1999

The Independent Living Project Officer will work as a member of a small project team at Disability Wales to develop models of good practice and training and information packs for independent living schemes and disabled people in Wales.

The Project Officer will ideally be a disabled person with experience of independent living issues and will be responsible for developing and promoting good practice guidelines and other resources. Familiarity with statutory services, disability movement organisations and project development will be essential. The Officer will be familiar with the principles of project development and management and will be able to present and discuss principles and models of independent living with a variety of audiences. The post will involve travel throughout Wales. A working knowledge of Welsh and IT skills would be an advantage to the position.

Closing date for applications: 15 April 1998
Re-advertisement – previous applicants should not reapply.

.....
The post will be based at the Disability Wales offices in Caerphilly. We offer a good employment package and a fully accessible working environment.

For application forms and further information, contact Disability Wales on 01222 887325 (voice and minicom), fax us on 01222 888702 or write to Beth Evans, Office Manager, DW/AC, Lllys Ifor, Crescent Road, Caerphilly CF83 1XL.



SWRDO
ELUSNAU'R LOTERI
GENEDLAETHOL
Cymru
NATIONAL LOTTERY
CHARITIES BOARD
Wales

Commissioning Social
Services in Newham**NEWHAM SOCIAL SERVICES**

Newham is one of London's fastest developing boroughs, we're also one of the most colourful and vibrant, with a young and culturally rich community benefiting from real investment in transport, work and leisure. As the local council, we're playing a full part in this process - not least by ensuring local people get the best quality and services money can buy. That's why we've been appointed a 'Best Value' pilot authority, and why we're aiming to deliver 'Best in Class' services. It's also why we're now looking for the best people.

Part of a newly created Commissioning Division within Social Services, you'll take a lead role in helping deliver our vision. Your ideas will impact on strategy, direction and delivery. You'll review services, analyse needs and drive through change. And you'll help create user-focused and needs-led commissioning.

And what could be better or more influential than that?

Working within a culture based on Total Quality and 'success', these are change orientated roles, demanding creative, flexible thinkers with proven experience in initiating and implementing service improvements.

Commissioning Managers

£27,600 - £29,500 p.a. inc. (pro rata for 0.5 post)

For each of these roles, you must possess a social work (CQSW/DipSW or equivalent) or management qualification and experience of personal social services, together with a proven ability to plan services and deploy resources to meet identified need.

Commissioning Manager - Disabled people - Adults

Please quote ref: SS900

The drive here is to enable improvements and lead our local response to national legislation - not least in terms of direct payments. Committed to the social model of disability, you'll need a thorough understanding of the issues and the law, together with a proven ability to empathise with the different access needs of disabled people in a culturally diverse population.

Commissioning Manager- Early Years and Family Support

Please quote ref: SS901

With a growing under 5s population, we already have an integrated and corporate approach to Early Years and Family Support. Helping develop the policy and practice to take this further, you'll work closely with partners in education, leisure, health, and the voluntary sector. This is a rapidly developing area with opportunities for project and change management. Directly relevant knowledge and experience is essential.

Commissioning Manager - Young People in
trouble or with mental health support needs

Please quote ref: SS902

Building on our innovative approaches to youth justice you'll lead our response to imminent legislative change and help tackle the mental health support needs of young people - including teenage suicide and self harm. Experience of collaborative working with police, probation, education and the health service in a multi-cultural community is essential.

Commissioning Manager - Disabled Children - 0.5

Please quote ref: SS903

Social Services work closely with our partners in Education, Leisure, the NHS, and the voluntary sector to provide an integrated and inclusive service to disabled children. You will help us to develop policy and practice with disabled children within a framework of total quality and best value. Currently we are seeking to build on our innovative services offering a range of short breaks.

Regeneration/Income Generation Officer

£23,700 - £25,700 p.a. inc.

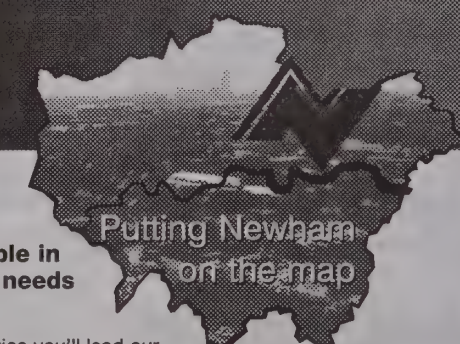
Please quote ref: SS904

In this newly created post, you will be heavily involved in all regeneration issues, so we're looking for someone experienced in building partnerships and developing multi-agency bids to a wide range of external sources - such as SRB and European Funding. A background in social welfare provision would be an advantage.

Closing date: 17th April 1998

For further details and an application form for the above posts please reply to the Personnel Section, Social Services Department, Broadway House, 322 High Street, Stratford, London E15 1AJ or Tel 0181 557 8637 (24 hr. answerphone).

Applications from disabled people and ethnic minorities are positively encouraged.

**THE HEART OF EAST LONDON**

WE POSITIVELY WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM ALL
SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.



NEWHAM
COUNCIL

STRIVING FOR EQUALITY



For sale

U.S. VANS FOR U.S. DOLLARS

VanFare, USA is a tetraplegic owned company specialising in new and previously owned adapted mini or full size vans for disabled driver, passenger or group transport.
Contact: VanFare, USA 11 School St., Essex, MA 01929 USA
Phone: 001 978 768 6228
Fax: 001 978 768 6404
E-mail: vanfare@tiac.net
http://www.tiac.net/users/vanfare

Powerchairs Mobility Consultants

New and Nearly New, Electric Wheelchairs, 3 and 4 Wheel Scooters.
All models wanted and for sale.
Ring Free anytime
0500 357 496
All major credit cards accepted

HOIST'S

for lifting wheelchairs, scooters and people into cars...
WE HAVE THE ANSWER!
Ring Free 0800 214 045
for brochure or free demo
www.demon.co.uk/autochair

Autochair Ltd Milford Lane, Bakewell, DE45 1DX



CHRYSLER GRAND VOYAGER LE
1991, right-hand drive, dropped floor, auto remote entry. A/C tinted windows. Front passenger seat removable. Accommodates 3 wheelchairs plus bench seat. Long MOT, excellent condition. £15,000.
Tel: (01924) 360958 (West Yorkshire).

COTSWOLD COTS

Build Cots and Beds for Adults and Children with Special Needs

We Design And Build Any Cot or Bed You Need.

New Products Extra Strong Playpens. Extra Large Stairgates. Fitted Padded Play Areas.

High Quality Fair prices
Information Phone 01993 842885

Is scooter storage a problem?

Looking for an affordable weather proof storage for your scooter - contact Comfort Aids for information on our scooter hut. Telephone Hayley or Kelly on
0115-911 0322

Renault Traffic 'J' Reg - ex D.A.R. bus. Diesel, 6-seater minibus with 2 w/chair spaces, tail-lift, full tracking throughout, low step, new tyres all round, MOT. Offers over £3,000.
Contact Tony Bentley on (01273) 452939.
TRADE

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE REGISTER

ARE YOU HAVING PROBLEMS LOCATING THE USED VEHICLE YOU NEED OR DISPOSING OF YOUR EXISTING VEHICLE?
Register your requirements or vehicle for sale with the Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Register and let us match buyer with seller.
For full details of this service telephone
(01202) 814112

ENJOY FREEDOM on the road with...

- The new Autochair
- Electric person lifts
- Wheelchair/Scooter hoists
- Rotating car seat
- Hand controls

M&J Mobility
Expert Advice • Service & Repairs • Free Demonstrations

RING TODAY FOR INFORMATION PACK
01703 873800



M&J Mobility, Unit 37, New Forest Enterprise Centre, Rushington Business Park, Totton, Hants.

Renault Traffic Automatic 1986
inc. hand controls. Full electric windows, doors, tailift etc. MOT one year. Low mileage. £3,000 ono, one month guarantee.
Tel/Fax: (01322) 667040.

1989 Brotherwood converted Mark 1 Nissan Prairie GLS model. White in colour with only 27,000 miles including full service history. £8,000 ono. Tel: 0191-226 0099 during office hours.
TRADE

Recruitment (continued on page 38)

Housing Services Agency has been successfully resettling single homeless people in central London for over 15 years. Like you, we're committed to providing the excellent support, advice and practical help they need to achieve independence.

Part time Receptionist

£16,260 - £18,099 (NJC 22-26) pro rata - 18 hrs p/w (Wed (pm), Thurs & Fri)

As the first point of contact for client and members of the public, you'll play a key role in running the reception. We're looking for a good communicator with a personable and client focused approach to their work to ensure that HSA continues to provide the highest quality service delivery to its users. You will also carry out a range of administrative duties and you will need 40 wpm accurate typing skills.

For further information please contact the Charity People Response Centre quoting reference HSA/4775/A on 0171 636 1006 or write to them at 38 Bedford Place, London WC1B 5JH. e-mail: response@charitypeople.co.uk
Fax: 0171 323 1839. Closing date: 14th April 1998. Interviews: 24th April 1998

HSA is funded by London Boroughs Grants Committee and the Department of the Environment. HSA is an equal opportunities employer and is opposed to discrimination on any grounds. We particularly welcome applications from disabled people.

A home of one's own is a universal right

HSA
Housing Services Agency

Greater London Association of Disabled People - London's leading disability organisation
wish to appoint disabled people to the following full-time posts:

GLAD GREATER LONDON ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

Membership Services Officer salary £18,099 Quote ref: MSO
Press & Communications Officer salary £18,099 Quote ref: PCO
Advocacy Project Officer salary £18,099 Quote ref: APO
Transport Policy Officer salary £19,820 Quote ref: TPO
Please note: All salaries are subject to an annual pay review which is pending.

If you are a disabled person and are interested in any of these posts please contact: **The Finance & Administration Team, GLAD, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA.**
Tel: 0171-346 5800, Minicom: 0171-346 5811, Fax: 0171-346 5810.

Closing date for all posts: Thursday 30th April 1998.

London Brook Advisory Centres

Group Work Facilitators Disabled Young People's Peer Education
Two facilitators are required to establish and run a sexuality and sexual health course with disabled young people. You will also support young people in their delivery of workshops with other disabled young people.
You should have an understanding of disability equality and sexual health issues as they affect disabled young people.
Hours: 120 over ten month period. Days and timing to be negotiated.
Rate of pay: £10.60 per hour.
An application form and further information can be obtained by contacting: Steven Gray, London Brook Advisory Centres, 153a East Street, London SE17 2SD, tel: 0171-701 5175.
Closing date for completed applications will be Wednesday 22 April 1998.
London Brook Advisory Centres are committed to equal opportunities in its employment practices.

NOTTINGHAM YOUNG DISABLED PEOPLE

promotes self-advocacy amongst young disabled people.
The project wishes to appoint a part-time DEVELOPMENT WORKER to facilitate groups and support individuals. We are looking for a dynamic and motivated person who is committed to the principles of self-empowerment amongst young disabled people.
The post is based at Base 51, 51 Glass House Street, Nottingham.
Applications are particularly welcome from disabled people.
Salary scale: SO1 pt 29 £17,481 pro rata (£8,740) for 18.5 hours per week.
Funding for the project is secured until 30th April 2000.
Nottingham Young Disabled People is an Equal Opportunities Organisation.
Closing date for applications Friday 17th April 1998.
Interviews will be held at Base 51 on Friday 1st May 1998.
For more information and an application pack please contact Sandra Holland at NCVS on 0115-947 6714.

Organisers of regional exhibitions, promoting regional services, facilities and products for people with disabilities, requires a telesales person to promote the event to prospective exhibitors.
Location not important - determination to succeed is!
Telephone Ron on 0181-667 1009 for further details.

Deadlines for the May issue of Disability Now:
Booking deadline is 9 April
Copy deadline is 14 April

INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR

c£21,000 + benefits

Northampton

We are moving our distribution centre to a new site in Northampton early next year. The new premises will utilise the latest technological advances and have been designed to ensure efficiency, excellent working conditions and that every possible accommodation is made for employees with any type of disability. As an integral part of our management team you will become fully involved in setting up our operations at the new site. As well as undertaking this initial challenge, you'll be responsible for the inventory accuracy, and related issues, of all product that passes through the distribution centre on a day to day basis.

With at least two years inventory management experience in a manufacturing or distribution environment you should have some supervisory experience. With a flexible attitude, confidence, plenty of initiative and PC skills you must be able to demonstrate a high level of analytical thinking.

There is a unique and very special work culture at Levi's. Firmly committed to the ethical way we do business, we want our people to feel respected, fairly treated, listened to and involved. We make every effort to ensure this philosophy is maintained and improved upon and we'll expect you to lead your team in the same way.

The Levi's brand has no boundaries: race, colour, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation or whatever, it makes no difference to us - and that's reflected in our workforce. We always welcome people from different backgrounds, especially those who want to work in an open and fun work environment and are excited by the way we do things.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits package.

This assignment is being handled by Delancey Consulting and requires the completion of an application form, so in the first instance please telephone 01908 210044 or write to Delancey Consulting, Tickford House, Silver Street, Newport Pagnell MK16 0EX, quoting reference number DC 2242.

Closing date for completed application forms is
20th April 1998.

Levi's

Recruitment

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

Shopmobility Scheme Co-ordinator (Ref No: 1488DN)

£13,920 - £15,264 per annum

A vacancy exists due to the promotion of the current postholder. Are you committed to customer service? Do you have the self-motivation, enthusiasm and vision to continue developing the Shopmobility scheme?

Shopmobility provides wheelchairs and powered scooters to help people who have limited mobility to shop and use facilities within Oxford City Centre. The scheme is based in a purpose built office on Level 1a in the Westgate car park.

Key duties/responsibilities:

- Develop, promote and manage the Shopmobility Scheme
- Develop and oversee partnership initiatives which promote ease of access to local facilities for people with disabilities
- Manage the paid Shopmobility Assistant post and a team of volunteers
- Establish and maintain consultative procedures with local traders and scheme users

Key essential criteria:

- An understanding of the challenges faced by people with disabilities
- Understanding of the issues around recruitment and management of volunteers
- Good interpersonal and organisational skills
- Ability to maintain accurate record keeping systems

Closing date: 4.30 pm, Friday 17th April 1998

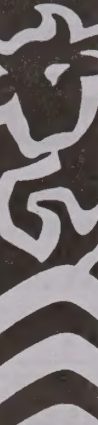
For Further Information

Application Are Available From And Returnable To:

Human Resources Division, 2nd Floor, St Aldate's Chambers, 109 - 113 St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1DS. Telephone (01865) 25-2465 (Answerphone Service)

- Oxford City Council's Minicom number (for the hearing impaired only) is (01865) 252032.
- Applications are particularly welcome from Minority Community groups who are currently under-represented in the area of work. Section 38(1) (b) of the Race Relations Act 1976 applies.

Working towards equal opportunities



BRITISH MUSEUM



ACCESS CO-ORDINATOR

A vacancy exists for an Access Co-ordinator in the Education Service for a fixed-term appointment of two years. This post is made possible by a grant from the Lloyds TSB Foundations.

The successful candidate will work within the Department of Public Services, being responsible for all aspects of disability provision, programmes and resources for the Museum. The main duties include: promoting the interests of disabled visitors and staff in the Museum; initiating and co-ordinating events and teaching programmes; developing and expanding services for children and adults with physical, sensory and learning difficulties; liaising with relevant departments within the Museum and with specialist external organisations.

Applicants must have substantial experience of educational provision for disabled children and adults; familiarity with current legislation on disability access and Special Educational Needs; proven public relations skills; and a degree. Experience of working in museums is highly desirable.

The post is graded as Band 5 and the salary will be in the region of £18,000 - £20,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Applications are particularly welcome from people with a disability.

For further information and an application form (to be returned by 1/5/98), please write, enclosing an A4 sae, to Personnel Services I (Ref 6/98), British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG.

The British Museum is an equal opportunities employer.

Co-ordinator 3 days per week. Salary: £10,080 (£16,800 pro rata)

London Disability Arts Forum (LDAF) has a reputation for innovation across a broad range of arts forms. We are now seeking a Co-ordinator to build on past successes and further develop our programme. This new job will be one of the most important in Disability Arts.

We're looking for someone with

- a good knowledge of disability arts and the wider disability movement
- energy, creativity and tenacity
- good organisational skills
- the ability to work on own initiative and lead a small team

The Co-ordinator will be responsible to the Committee for all aspects of the organisation (except DAIL Magazine)

For full application information contact: Caglar Kimoncu, Administrator, at London Disability Arts Forum, Diorama Arts Centre, 34 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND.

Tel: 0171-916 5484. Minicom: 0171-691 4201. Fax: 0171-916 5396.

Closing date for application: Friday 17 April. Interviews will be held Friday 24 April. This post is open to disabled people only.



0.5 Evaluation worker Evaluation of Leonard Cheshire Disabled People's Forum (formerly User Empowerment Project)

We wish to recruit a part-time research worker for this independent user-led/controlled two year evaluation of the Disabled People's Forum, co-ordinated by Clare Evans, to empower Leonard Cheshire service users. Salary pro rata £20,730 per annum.

The successful candidate will have research skills, skills in facilitating service users and be a disabled person/social care service user. The evaluation is being directed by Peter Beresford at Brunel University. A successful candidate may also work from their own base.

The evaluation is funded by the Department of Health and Leonard Cheshire.

Closing date for applications is Friday 8 May 1998
Interviews Wednesday 3 June 1998

For further information and application details please contact:

Administrator
Leonard Cheshire Disabled People's Forum Evaluation
Wyndhams
St Joseph's Place
Devizes
Wiltshire SN10 1DD

Tel: 01380 729954
Fax: 01380 721062



Disability Advocacy Network (Tower Hamlets)

The Disability Advocacy Network intends to appoint 3 staff to the DAN team.

DAN is Tower Hamlet's independent disability advocacy service - and aims to give local disabled people choice and control of the services they require. These posts are only open to disabled people. We are able to recruit thanks to: Comic Relief, Tower Hamlets Social Services and the East London and City Health Authority.

Manager - Salary: PO1 - £22,092 (inc. London Weighting), full-time, 35 hours per week.

General Advocate - Salary: SO1 - £19,821 (inc. London Weighting), full-time, 35 hours per week.

Receptionist/Office Worker - Salary: Scale 6 - £18,099 pro rata (inc. London Weighting), part-time, 17.5 hours per week.

Closing date for returned applications: Friday 17th April 1998 (1pm)

For further information and application forms please contact: DAN, Disability Resource Centre, 40-50 Southern Grove, London E3 4PX.

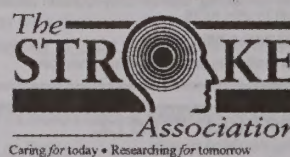
Telephone: 0181-980 2200 (Voice), 0181-981 0337 (Minicom), 0181-981 8007 (Fax).

Initially funded until 31st March 1999.

COMMUNITY SERVICES P/T CO-ORDINATOR (15 HOURS PER WEEK)

OF SERVICES FOR YOUNGER
PEOPLE WITH STROKES

SALARY: PRO RATA £10,745 pa



AREA: GREATER LONDON

Do you have

- Good communication skills including advocacy and PR
- Organisational skills
- Flair and creativity
- Knowledge, experience and empathy with the effects of disability
- The ability, enthusiasm and energy to set up a new service
- Knowledge of the caring professions?

If you do, then you are just the person we need to set up and take overall responsibility for running groups for younger people with strokes.

The appointment is initially for two years and may be home or office based depending on the location of the appointee.

For job description and application form please telephone either:

Sue Wayne, Regional Manager: (01753) 892432, or
Sandra Field, Regional Manager: (01322) 272059

CLOSING DATE: Monday 13th APRIL 1998.

Registered Charity No. 211015

Wanted

DISABLED PEOPLE WANTED

by inventor (also disabled) to form a co-operative company which proposes to exploit a new concept in technology. No experience needed or required. For further information on this exciting and highly profitable project, please leave your name and address on 01646 622890.

Personal



In a Crisis

Whatever you're going through, we'll go through it with you. Please phone, visit or write

The Samaritans

0345 90 90 90

(Calls charged at local rate)

The Samaritans is a Registered Charity providing Confidential and Emotional Support. Charity No. 219432



A dating agency designed for people with disabilities and is open to discerning able bodied people.

Tel/Fax 01473 226950

Lonely, bored and fed up? Why not give Handicate a try?

Handicate, The Wellington Centre, 52 Chevellier Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB
Member of ABIA

Find a friend



Find-A-Friend

Anybody - Any Age - Anywhere
Able-bodied or Disabled
Choose Your Own Ideal Relationship

MUTUAL ESSENTIAL LINKS

1 Weir Street, Northwich,
Cheshire CW9 5HL
Tel/Fax: (24 hrs) UK 01606 49093
Overseas +44 + 1606 49093

Services

MILBURY

THAMES VALLEY REGION

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire & surrounding areas.

Innovative services for people with learning and physical disabilities, sensory needs, mental health problems, challenging behaviour, autism.

Residential/Day/Respite placements.

Multi-disciplinary support.

For further information please contact Sarah Hone on (01491) 411633.



parents influencing services
for families following in their footsteps

Does your child have multiple disabilities/complex needs?

We can help you influence the way your local services help families like yours.

Call us on 01706 819200

Footprints is a free service from

One Hundred Hours

Dobroyd Castle, Todmorden, OL14 7JJ

Registered charity no: 1007238

Disability Now is also available on tape. For details, contact Subscriptions at 6 Market Road, London, N7 9PW or telephone 0171-619 7317.

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

Take a break on DN

Treat yourself, or a friend, to a DN subscription and you could find yourself being put up in one of London's leading hotels.

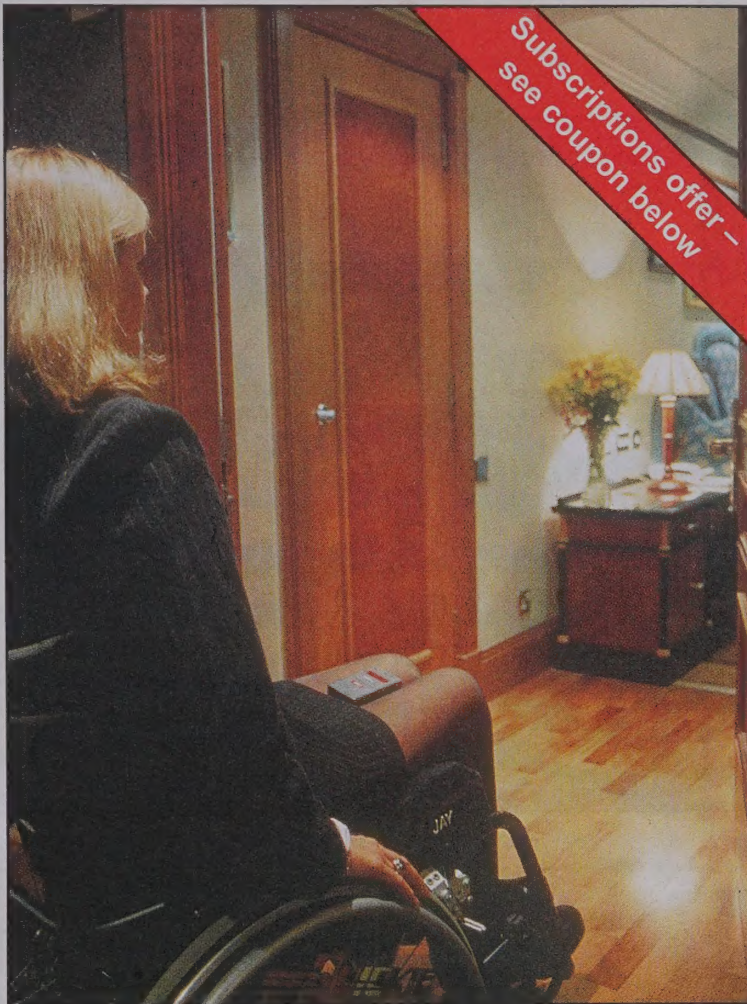
The prize is a two-night weekend break for two people sharing a room, including breakfast and an evening meal in the art deco themed restaurant on one night, worth approximately £450.



THE MOUNT ROYAL
A THISTLE HOTEL

The Mount Royal Thistle Hotel is a deluxe hotel situated in the heart of London at Marble Arch, with five rooms specially designed for disabled guests. The hotel won the 1995 Holiday Care Award for the most accessible bedrooms in the category of 20 rooms and over.

The 4-star hotel has recently completed a multi-million pound refurbishment programme and many facilities have been added to ensure disabled guests enjoy a comfortable and carefree stay. For example, there is a low level check-in desk and there are smooth, marble floor corridors throughout the hotel. Each of the five specially adapted rooms has wide doors which are operated by remote control or entry card, generous turning space, a parquet floor, a wheel-



All doors open: Wide door access to award-winning rooms

in shower and an inter-connecting door to an adjacent bedroom. For hearing or visually impaired guests, a flashing and vibrating telephone and message pager are provided.

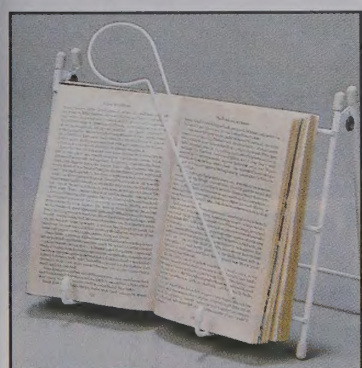
In addition, all the rooms are air conditioned and come

equipped with Sky television.

All entries must be sent to DN. See the blue box below.

The Mount Royal Thistle Hotel, Bryanston Street, Marble Arch, London W1A 4UR, tel: 0171-629 8040.

Handy Homecrafts



Do you need some handy products to help you with day-to-day needs?

The Smith & Nephew Homecraft catalogue probably has what you are after.

DN has two special folding book/magazine stands (above left) worth £14.49 each (inc. VAT), to give away.

This lightweight (20g) stable stand, which folds to 16x12in, holds books or magazines upright for reading and can be placed on your knees so you don't have to use your hands. It comes with a clip (shown) that can be used to hold pages open or act as a bookmark.



DN also has six daylight simulation bulbs (above right) on offer.

These clever bulbs are coloured a natural blue, simulating daylight more effectively than ordinary lightbulbs.

They are ideal for situations where concentration could lead to eye strain, such as needle-work, art or crafts, as the clear light is more relaxing for the eyes. As with normal bulbs, they come in 60w or 100w.

For your free Smith & Nephew catalogue, packed full of products, contact the hotline, tel: (01623) 722337, fax: (01623) 752022.



Message on a bottle

If you are partial to a little self-pampering, but have trouble reading the small print on most product labels – maybe this is the answer.

New from manufacturers L'Occitane de Provenance is a range of cosmetics, including shampoos etc, that has the label's text in braille as well.

DN had the braille checked by staff at Action for Blind People, who said that it was readable.

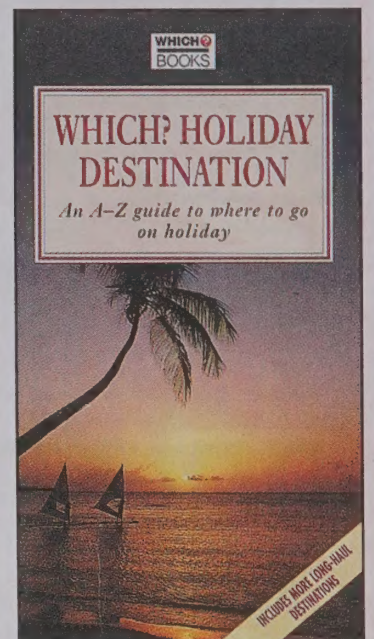
We have twelve 250ml bottles of shampoo, worth £6.50 each, to give away.

However, if you don't manage to win a free one, you can order their catalogue from L'Occitane, 237 Regent's Street, London W1R 7AG, tel: 0171-290 1421.

• *Action for Blind People were not involved in product testing.*

These offers are not open to DN staff or associates.

Holidays by the book



Like most people at this time of year, you are probably dreaming of packing your bags and heading off on holiday.

Before you go, let DN offer you some helpful information and advice. We have five copies of *Which? Holiday Destination*, worth £12.99, to give away.

Giving unbiased opinions, this informative book gives a country-by-country guide to popular holiday destinations around the world.

It lists interests at each location, points out the best places to experience the culture, where to try the nightlife, view the landscape and shop.

Other sub-chapters give advice on when to travel, package and independent travel, and health and safety advice.

If you are not a lucky winner, you can still order a copy through bookshops, quoting ISBN 0-85202-705-2.

Disability NOW

Subscription form

To subscribe, fill in this form and return it with a cheque (payable to *Disability Now*) to: DN, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW, or tel: 0171-619 7317.

Subscribe to *DN* today and you could be staying at the Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch, London (see above left).

I would like to subscribe and to enter the draw. ☐

I would like to subscribe but do not want to enter the draw. ☐

I would like to give a gift subscription to: (Please enter your details opposite and their details below). ☐

Tel: _____

Multiple copy rates are as follows:

2 copies £44, 3 copies £66, 4 copies £80,
5 copies £100, 6 copies £120, 7 copies £140,
8 copies £160, 9 copies £180, 10-50 copies £200,
51-100 copies £225, 101-150 copies £250.
One year (12 issues) only

Individual at home address -£16 (12 issues) ☐

£31 (24 issues) ☐

Professional/organisation -£25 (12 issues) ☐

£49 (24 issues) ☐

Overseas (airmail) -£30 (12 issues) ☐

Those on means-tested FREE ☐

benefits, e.g. Income Support
(please include proof of entitlement)

Where did you read this copy of *DN*? _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone number _____

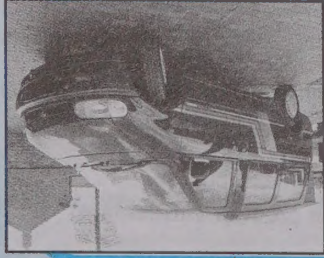
Disability Now

£1.60 April 1998

The award winning newspaper for everyone with an interest in disability

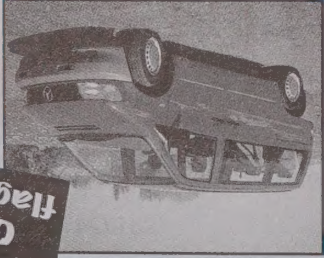
1998 VERSA Range

A VERSA HAS NEVER BEEN SO AFFORDABLE



NISSAN Vanette

2.3 DIESEL
on the road
£12,995



Mercedes-Benz Vito

2.0L PETROL
on the road
£16,295
2.3 DIESEL
on the road
£16,795



*This is a trademark of Motability registered charity number 299745

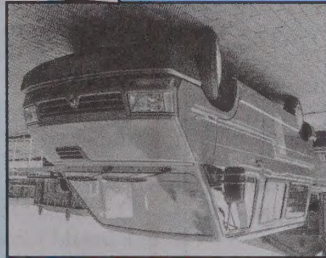
VERSASALES DEPARTMENT

Widnes Car Centre Limited,
Moor Lane, Widnes, Cheshire, W48 7AL.

Tel: 0151 420 2000
Fax: 0151 495 1382

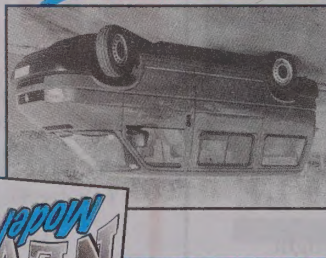
Certificate Number FS 33479
Monday - Friday
9.00am - 5.30pm

CALL NOW! for a full information pack.



RENAULT Trafic

1.9 DIESEL
on the road
£12,895
Also available for hire from Versa Hire



VW Special 800

1.9 TURBO DIESEL
on the road
£13,695

All Versas are capable of carrying 2 wheelchairs. Suitable for families and organisations. All models available on 'MOTABILITY' lease.

WIDNES CAR CENTRE
Unique to

PLUS a range of used Versa vehicles are available. Prices start from **£6495**
Phone Howard Samuels or Philip Beecham for details of current stock.

M1 TESTED AND CERTIFIED THE SAFEST SEATS AROUND



HOME IMPROVEMENTS
DN shows you how to stay independent



MAIL ORDER FASHION
Easier than shopping? DN finds out

Inside - win a 4-star London weekend break



Hero of the hour: Hero Knightingale and carer, Pauline Reid, fear they will lose the legal right for children with special educational needs to be assessed. See page 3.

LISA HITCHEN

Regulars

Checkout Ideal Home Exhibition	10
Profile Dolly's designer	12
Comment Morals and marijuana	14
Job seeker New deal - will it work?	15
Motoring People mover test	26

ISSN 0958-4676



9 770958 467019